



**POLO PARK
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Stallion Sentinel

NOVEMBER 2020

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

Polo Park M.S.

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Wellington, FL 33449
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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

School Counselors

Ms. Kelly Fredley
6th Grade

Ms. Brittny Kirik
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

Dear Polo Park Family,

Thank you for a successful first few months of the 2020-2021 school year! I never imagined starting a school year the way we have. I do have to commend our staff and students for stepping up and rising to the occasion.

We currently have about 35% of our students attending brick and mortar and 65% attending virtually. I want to assure those of you who are still undecided for the second semester that we are doing everything possible every day to deep clean, sanitize, and socially distance. I am so proud of the efforts of our staff and students to keep everyone safe. We continue to ask that if your child is feeling ill, that you do not send them to school. Additionally, please remember that non-district personnel is not allowed on campus without an appointment and that there will be a health screening before you are allowed to attend any on-campus appointments.

Curriculum Night was very different this year, but I have heard rave reviews on how we handled it. The number of parents who attended Google Meets shows how important your child's education is to you. I hope each of you had the opportunity to see all of the great things that our teachers are doing in their classrooms.

I am saddened by the number of traditional events that we have had to cancel or postpone for this year, such as Night of Science and our athletics program. That being said, many of our clubs have begun to meet both virtually and in-person. At this point, athletics and intramurals are still on hold. We will provide you with updates and information should things change in the future.

As always, if you have any questions, please free to reach out by phone or email.

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.

GET CONNECTED!



POLO PARK
FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/poloparkptsa



SCHOOL INFO
& NEWS
& PHOTOS



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



POLO PARK
MIDDLE SCHOOL

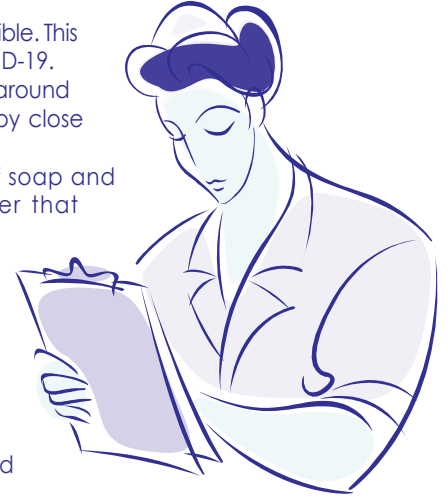
Stallion Sentinel
November 2020
Published Five Times Per Year
Fulton-Holland Educational
Services Center
3300 Forest Hill Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Issue #2

From the Nurse's Desk

Having good health is one of the most important thing. With Corona Virus lingering around our community. We should be very vigilant on protecting ourselves against this virus.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. You can take steps to slow the spread.

- **Stay at least 6 feet away from others**, whenever possible. This is very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- **Cover your mouth and nose with a mask** when around others. This helps reduce the risk of spread both by close contact and by airborne transmission.
- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- **Avoid crowded indoor spaces** and **ensure indoor spaces are properly ventilated** by bringing in outdoor air as much as possible. In general, being outdoors and in spaces with good ventilation reduces the risk of exposure to infectious respiratory droplets.
- **Stay home and isolate** from others when sick.
- **Routinely clean and disinfect** frequently touched surfaces.



Pandemics can be stressful, especially when you are staying away from others. During this time, it's important to **maintain social connections and care for your mental health.**

Carving Out Awareness - Dyslexia Awareness Month

This year was the first-ever "Carving Out Awareness" pumpkin carving contest, and it was a smashing success. This contest, launched by our structured literacy teacher Mrs. Strackman, was created in order to raise awareness for Dyslexia during Dyslexia Awareness Month. Through the contest, she was able to set up a Google Classroom and a display in the media center to help spread awareness. In terms of the contest, there was an abundance of pumpkins submitted! They were so beautifully carved with silly faces that our judges had a difficult time choosing the winners, but in the end, only a few rose to the top. The winners are:



1st Place: Victoria B.



2nd Place - Tie: Phoenix K. & Layla T.



3rd Place: Motyis C.

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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. Additionally, elective teachers pick an outstanding student for the Elective Student of the Month. The students receive a certificate and their names are posted outside the main office for all to see. Please congratulate the following students recognized for the month of October 2020.

- Sixth Grade Student of the Month - Miriam K.
- Eighth Grade Student of the Month - Julieta M.
- Seventh Grade Student of the Month - Sean O.
- Electives Student of the Month - Christian S.

Congrats!

See What's Happening in Family and Consumer Science Classes!

The Hospitality and Tourism class has been traveling around the USA, Canada and Latin America studying their amazing sites and unique cuisines. We have made Chocolate Chip cookies invented in the New England region, Shoofly Pie from the MidAtlantic region, Key Lime Pie from the South, Churros from the West and Southwest region and Polverones from Mexico. We will be traveling to Europe during the 2nd 9-weeks.



FCCLA

Membership is growing in FCCLA! We are always looking for more members to join this amazing national student-run organization. Our meetings are every Wednesday from 4:15 – 4:45 PM in Room 2-104 or virtually by joining the class code 45vcgm3.

We will have a virtual district meeting in November. The date will be announced shortly. It will be a great opportunity to meet other FCCLA members attending schools in our district, learn more about the organization, and elect new district officers.

Hopefully, restrictions will be lifted and in March we will be able to attend the State Leadership Conference in Orlando and the National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Please consider being a FCCLA sponsor to support our members. Your monetary donation will help us attend these great conferences. Please contact Mrs. Holmstock at 561-333-5544.

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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.



Polo Park Robotics

Polo Park Robotics is ready for this season. Last year was a fantastic yet disappointing year. All three teams qualified for the past season tournaments. However, due to COVID, they were all cancelled. It was such an amazing run for all of our team members and especially for those who were with us for three years. However, we will not let COVID get in our way. That is why we are even more fired up for this year. We realize that most of the tournaments will be virtual but we are working hard to make it back to state and even to the Worlds this year. After a week long tryout we finally were able to pick our teams for the 2020-2021 school year. Congratulations to the following students on making it on the Amazing Polo Park Cyber Stallions squad.

Team Projectia

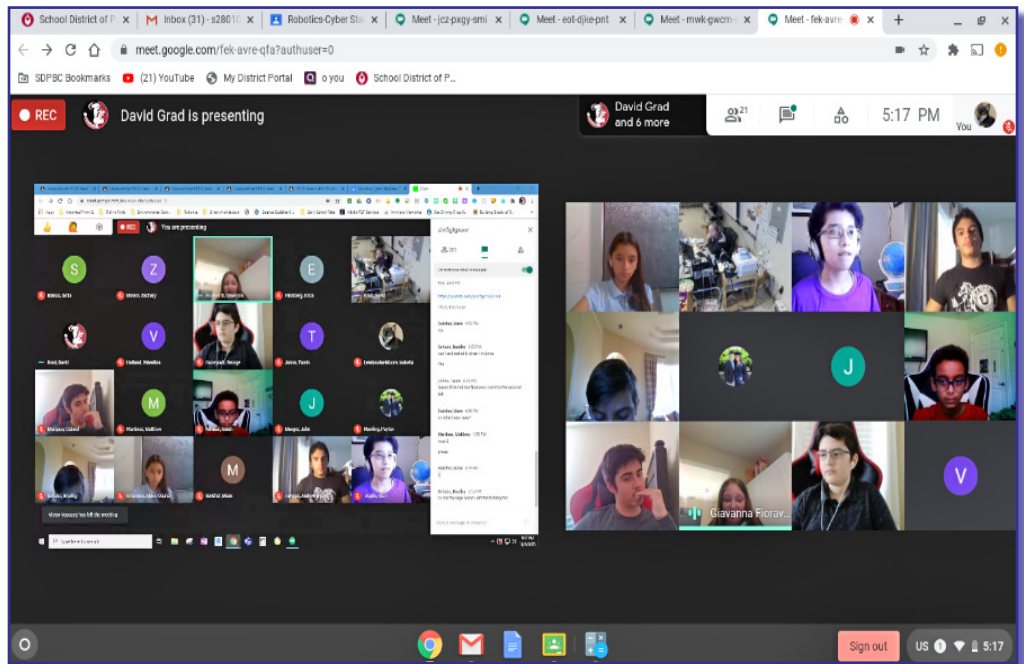
Eoghan Mclvor
Erica Frishberg
Sofia Blanco
John Mueger
Patrick McDermott
Elizabeth Silha
Zachary Elstein
Victor Vasquez
Annabelle Porrier
Andrew Bueno

Team Techno Rebels

Alan Trujillo
George Honeycutt
Gabriel Forjan
Vincent Pople
Raul Junco-Suarez
Matt Martinez
Rodrigo Monter-Albarran
Abbie Osuna
Gianna Luiso

Team Rockin Robots

Demetrios Esopakis
Georgios Esopakis
Giavanna Fioravanti
Valentina Holland
Tyler Sahlbach
Maxx Swisher
Ephrosyni Esopakis
Anthony Miele
Bradley Schube
Gabe Marques



Virtual robotics try-outs

A few spots are left!



We need you!

Advertise in the Stallion Sentinel!

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

Polo Park Middle School

Girls Who Code

JavaScript
Python

GIRLS WHO CODE CLUB
Sponsored by Mrs. AJ

Girls Who Code (GWC) Club is an extracurricular programs for girls (and boys if they wish) that teaches participants about Computer Science (CS) in a fun and safe environment!
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!
Held in Room 1-118 F2F and Virtual
Every Thursday @8:30
Come check it out!
It's never too late to Join!!

SCRATCH

CHANGE the CULTURE
JOIN the MOVEMENT
girls who CODE
Join us for our GIRLS WHO CODE CLUB!

From the Library Media Center

Hi everyone,

I hope you have been visiting our virtual library website, if not, please do so; here is the link. <https://sites.google.com/palmbeachschools.org/poloparkvirtuallibrary/home>

The website has lots of information and is updated often, there are activities, tutorials, book suggestions, and so much more.

We have been adding a number of e-books to our MackinVia account. MackinVia is available in the student portal and as an app for many devices. Students can check e-books out for a two-week period. Recently, to support Florida's mandated Holocaust education and Holocaust Education Week, we added 25 historical and realistic fiction titles dealing with the Holocaust. If you visit our website, you will find annotated list of these titles. I will be continuing to add titles to the entire library collection throughout the year.

I hope you have been finding time to enjoy a good book. I recently finished *Finding Orion* by John David Anderson and the book *The Collected Works of Gretchen Oyster* by Cary Fagan. Both books are available in MackinVia. Next on my reading list is *Betty Before X* by Ilyasah Shabazz with Renee Watson.

Happy Reading,
Mrs. Bernstein



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Test Taking Tips for Parents

Tip #1: Make attendance a priority, especially on days that you know standardized testing will be administered. Though it's important for your student to be in school every day, making sure he's there when the test is taken helps to ensure he won't lose more learning time because he has to make up a test during school. Make a note of test days on the calendar. That way both you and your student know what's coming and will be prepared.

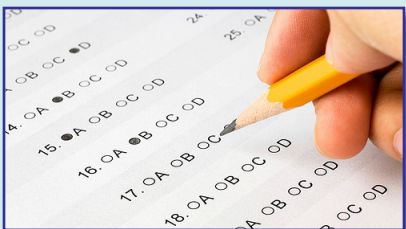
Tip #2: Monitor your student's progress and check for understanding. Subjects like science, social studies and math often have cumulative exams at the end of learning units. If your student is struggling with something now, it won't be easy for her to have time to try again to learn it just before the test.

Tip #3: Set a reasonable bedtime and stick to it. Eight hours of sleep is preferable. Many parents underestimate the importance of a rested mind and body. Tired children have difficulty focusing and are easily flustered by challenges.

Tip #4: Make sure your child has enough time to wake up fully before he has to go to school. Just as rest is important, so is having enough time to get his brain engaged and in gear. If his test is first thing in the morning, he can't afford to spend the first hour of school groggy and unfocused.

Tip #5: Provide a high-protein, healthy, low-sugar breakfast for your student. Kids learn better on full stomachs, but if their stomachs are full of sugary, heavy foods that will make them sleepy or slightly queasy, it's not much better than an empty stomach.

Tip #6: Talk to your student about how the test went, what he did well and what he would have done differently. Think of it as a mini-debriefing or brainstorming session. You can talk about test-taking strategies after the fact as easily as beforehand and these discussions will improve performance on future tests.



PTSA

The PTSA is excited to support our school again this year. While things look very different this year, we will still work diligently to support our staff, teachers and students, whether attending school virtually or in brick & mortar. We would like to thank all our families who have purchased a PTSA membership in support of our school! You should have recently received your electronic PTSA membership card via email from MemberHub. If you haven't, please contact us at membership@poloparkptsa.com. It's not too late to join...you can still purchase a membership for yourself and your student(s) at <https://poloparkptsa.cheddarup.com/>.

Business Partners Shout Out

Thank you to all our loyal business partners for their generous support of Polo Park Middle School: Adrenaline, Bolay, Chick-fil-A, Kelly Richter-EXIT REALTY, Five Guys, PDQ-Wellington, Health Appraisers-Scott Safriet, Elstein Law, Shults Orthodontics, Santelli Orthodontics, The Tricoli Team-Keller Williams Realty, Cooper Orthodontics, Rescue Clean 911, Score At the Top-Wellington. If you would like to be part of our business partners please contact Christina Sullivan at businesspartners@poloparkptsa.com.

We've had a lot going on as we try to find different ways to support the school without the ability to have on campus events. Here's a recap of all the PTSA activities over the past few months.

We started the year with two Spirit Wear fundraisers and were excited to offer the school approved dri-fit long sleeve shirts, quarter zip dri-fit pullover and our popular hoodie through our online store. If you haven't had a chance to pick up your orders yet, they are still available for pick up. The store is open from 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday at 3121 Fairlane Farms Rd, Suite 3 in Wellington.

October was National Principals month and as a token of our appreciation, the PTSA treated Mr. Aronson with a favorite lunch from Buffalo Wild Wings. We recognize that these are challenging times for students, teachers and staff and we are grateful for his leadership and dedication to our school.

We would like to thank everyone for the incredible support for our school during our two Spirit Days! We had a tremendous turnout for the Spirit Day at PDQ and are very grateful for everyone's participation. Thank you for stopping by at our Spirit Day at Chick-fil-A as well. We have a couple more Spirit Days planned over the next few weeks so stay tuned for more information!

If you'd like to support the PTSA, here are some additional ways you can do so:

- The SaveAround coupon books are now available to all our Polo Park families through contactless purchase! You can purchase a coupon book online and it will be shipped free directly to you. Go to <http://www.supportourgrouops.com/gn/283235> to get your copy.
- We have partnered with Shutterfly, who will donate a portion of the proceeds from orders placed through the Polo Park Storefront. When ordering holiday cards or personalized gifts, please be sure to use this link <http://poloparkptsa.shutterflystorefront.com/> to support our school. You can still use any promo codes you have to take advantage of Shutterfly's special offers while raising money for our school!
- Shop on Amazon through AmazonSmile and the school will receive a portion of the proceeds. Shop through <https://smile.amazon.com> and select Polo Park Middle PTSA or set up Polo Park Middle PTSA as your chosen charity on the mobile Amazon app. Amazon will make a donation to our school based on your purchase.
- Box Tops for Education has gone digital! Don't forget to scan your receipts on the Box Top app so we can earn money for our school.

We are also working hard on getting an electronic marquee for our school and are looking forward to having it in place next year. All your support and contributions are going towards achieving this goal.

Finally, the PTSA started a collection drive for teacher supplies to collect different items every week to help them keep a good stock for their classrooms. We started collecting disinfecting wipes, disposable masks, hand sanitizers and hand soap. The collection bin in the front office has been overflowing with supplies and we're so thrilled that our families came together to support our hardworking teachers.

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Halloween

Each year, the faculty and staff at Polo Park are invited to dress up for Halloween. This year was no exception. Students were asked to vote for the most original and the funniest costumes. Our winners were Mr. Grad for funniest and Mr. Paige for most original. Congratulations to our winners and to all who participated.



Every School Day Counts

An estimated 5 million to 7.5 million U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year.

Research shows that missing 10 percent of school days, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.

- Chronic absence is a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their school performance.
- Good attendance is an important life skill.

Parents play a key role in school attendance. Let your student know it is the expectation. Establish home-study routines and sleep habits that make attendance a non-issue. Encourage participation in school clubs, organizations, and sports. Monitor his/her progress and talk about it. Students who are engaged at home and at school rarely miss a day.



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