



**POLO PARK**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

JUNE 2022

# Stallion Sentinel

VOLUME 14 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

**Mr. Craig Corsentino**  
Assistant Principal - 6th Grade

**Mrs. Melissa Leiva**  
Assistant Principal - 7th Grade

**Mrs. Fallon Kauker**  
Assistant Principal - 8th Grade

### School Counselors

**Ms. Naomy Soto-Coleman**  
6th Grade

**Ms. Kelly Mayville**  
7th Grade

**Ms. Kris Connors**  
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 have concluded the 2021-2022 school year! It was great to finally meet many of you for the first time and to continue to build positive relationships. As many of you may have heard, I will be moving to Forest Hill High School in the fall. The last four years here have been extremely rewarding and I will cherish them.

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 and minimize learning loss each child is required to participate in our summer reading program. You will find an annotated list of over 300 books to choose from on our virtual library website. There you will find all the details for your summer reading assignment as well. This will be your first assignment at Polo Park, your first chance to show that sense of responsibility, so select a book you think you'll enjoy and show us your best work.

The Admin team 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, ours and PTSA's Facebook page, twitter and Instagram, as we look for ways to spread the word about what is happening at Polo Park and the announcement of the new Principal. Please look for our new dress code as it will be strictly enforced.

Polo Prep for the incoming 6th graders will be August 2nd from 9:00 – 3:00. If you have any questions, as always please feel free to call 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

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:**

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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## From the Library Media Center

Hi everyone, happy summer. I hope everyone can find time to relax and read. In May, I worked closely with the ELA department to come up with Polo Park's Summer Reading Program. Your child should have received information from their ELA teacher, otherwise you can find all the details at my library website: <https://sites.google.com/palmbeachschools.org/poloparkvirtuallibrary/home>

This year students are required to read a 2022-2023 Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) book of their choice. There are 15 titles to choose from and students must complete an assignment that will be turned in to their ELA teacher by August 19th. Students will earn a grade for their work, so they want to do a good job.

In addition, for all those readers out there, I have a Summer Reading Challenge, which is optional. You can find that on my website as well. If you complete my challenge we'll have some fun, food, and prizes when we return to school in August. The challenge must be completed and turned in to me by August 19 in the library media center. You may use your required book to fill one of the categories.

I'd like to thank St. Peters Methodist Church for the five-hundred-dollar donation for summer reading books and a special thanks to Ms. Beach for making it happen. Their donation helped to put summer reading books in the hands of some of our students.

Since we ask the students to read from the SSYRA books, I schedule my summer reading around them as well. So far I've read *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston, *Archimancy Shadow School* by J. A. White, and *Curse of the Night Witch* by Alex Aster. If you like fantasy and/or mythology, I highly recommend these three titles. I enjoyed *Curse of the Night Witch* so much, I immediately downloaded the sequel to my phone. The sequels to the other two are not out yet, I checked. Next on my list will be *Rivals* by Tommy Greenwald.

If you have any questions about the Summer Reading Program, the Summer Reading Challenge, or a question regarding the library media program, just email me:

[Nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:Nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org)  
 Have a great summer and happy reading,  
 Mrs. Bernstein



*Polo Park students who received summer reading books thanks to a generous donation from St. Peters Methodist Church*



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**Nora Bernstein**  
[nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org)  
 Polo Park Middle School

## 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 March, April and May.

**March:**

6th grade – Jeremiah Davis  
 7th grade – Sophia Yohe  
 8th grade – Grace Klostermeyer  
 Electives – Brandon Burt  
 P.E. – Sophia Vazquez

**April:**

6th grade – Semra Erdogan  
 7th grade – Olivia Miller  
 8th grade – Christian Nish  
 Electives – Layla Ashry  
 P.E. – Riley Joros

**May:**

6th grade – Lakshita Vishnuvardham  
 7th grade – Michael Guido  
 8th grade – Preston Corsini  
 Electives – Austin Abinet  
 P.E. – Lyan Hernandez and Andrew Bueno

## Pre-Algebra IXL Challenge

This year, Assistant Principal, Mr. Smith challenged Ms. Lowe's and Mr. Sandford's classes using the math support program IXL. The following students were recognized for their efforts during the challenge: Curtavia Freeman and Jamarcus Wells for the highest IXL diagnostic growth and Kaylie Betancourt and Jose Arrieta for the greatest number of questions answered.

Congratulations to all students participating in Mr. Smith's challenge.



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## Our 2021-2022 PTSA Business Partners

Thank you to all our loyal business partners for their generous support of Polo Park Middle School. Families of Polo Park - let's do all we can to support them as well!

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## PTSA

PTSA put on some wonderful events the last few months of the school year, including Q3 Honor Roll celebration, PDQ afterschool sales, Teacher Appreciation Week, and the 8th Grade Dance. We also had our elections and final General Meeting of the year May 9th in the media center.

Teachers and staff were treated to a catered lunch by Tijuana Flats to start off **Teacher Appreciation Week**. The media center was decorated with a "You're Out of This World" theme, with Moon Pies for dessert! Tuesday's Sweets Day was FANTASTIC thanks to you – amazing, generous parents who donated sweet treats at drop-off including cookies, cakes, donuts, muffins, croissants, and pies! What a spread! Next up was Pretzels Day, with pretzel sticks and dipping sauces from Auntie Anne's. Administration provided smoothies on Thursday and presents on Friday. We also had teacher shout-outs, where students or parents let us know who deserved an extra mention. Thanks to all who participated! As well, thanks to Allison Browning and Paula Howell, Hospitality co-chairs, for putting on a wonderful week of events.

The **8th grade glow party dance** had students up and dancing the entire time...great music, food, photo booth pictures, and the kids especially liked the cotton candy machine and candy bar! It was a great way for the graduating 8th graders to spend time with fellow classmates and make lasting memories. Special thanks to all the parent volunteers and to our co-chairs Jessica Moisdon and Kristina Bostwick!

Good news before the end of the school year – the new water fountains have been installed and the filters and water bottle fillers are a big hit! We will keep fundraising to add other improvements to the campus, including the courtyard landscaping and new tables.

Let's take a moment here to acknowledge and thank our outgoing board members whose children are moving on from Polo Park this year, for all their hard work, time, and dedication. Vanessa Quigley (outgoing Ways and Means VP), Jessica Moisdon (outgoing 8th grade chair), Mike Costello (outgoing Honor Roll co-chair), and Brian Merbler (outgoing Walkathon chair). Thank you to Jessica and Vanessa especially for your many years of service on the board, and to Mike – we hope you are back when your little one starts at Polo!

We are thrilled that we will have back for next school year Jen Pollak (president), Christina Sullivan (business partnerships VP), Lea Galo (treasurer), Allison Browning (secretary), and Laura Davis (honor roll co-chair).

And welcome new board members: Ren Araujo, Micah Ford, Michelle Trigazis, Adriana Gonzalez, Pam Molloy, Jason Helfant, Lauren Goldasich, Miriam Savage, Aimee Croatti, Pallavi Singh, and Corynn Poirrier!

Our next event for students will be at the school's 6th Grade Prep in August.

Parents, please continue to check your emails and social media for our latest happenings! [FB – Polo Park Middle School PTSA. Instagram – Poloparkptsa. Twitter – Poloparkptsa] If you would like to donate directly for any of our events, or wish to volunteer, please contact us at [president@poloparkptsa.com](mailto:president@poloparkptsa.com)

Have a great summer!

*continued*

Teachers and staff enjoyed the Teacher Appreciation events; 8th Grade Dance.



Jon Goldblatt, LMHC, Psy.D  
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## From the Cafe

Even though the district is still offering Free meals in the Fall to all students, we are requesting that you still go into the district website [www.palmbeachschools.org](http://www.palmbeachschools.org), students & parents tab, on the left side of the screen, you'll see Food & Nutrition Services tab, and on the left side of the screen Application for Meal Benefits, open that tab and fill out the Free/Reduce forms in July. This will allow the district to know what the percentages are for our area. It also allows the district to get more federal funding for other items that may be needed in our district. Thank you for all your help and participation in this program.

# FREE

**MONDAY**  
Delicious Tijuana Flats lunch provided by PTSA in the Media Center

**TUESDAY**  
Swing by the front office lounge for morning coffee & donuts, and enjoy sweets all day donated by PTSA and PPMS families

**WEDNESDAY**  
Stop by right before, during or after your lunch period for Auntie Anne's pretzels in the front office lounge, provided by PTSA

**THURSDAY**  
Grab yummy smoothies provided by Polo Park Administration

**FRIDAY**  
Presents brought to you by Polo Park Administration

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## Another Banner Year for Polo Park Athletics

After a year of no sports at the middle school level, Polo Park picked up right where they left off a few years ago, producing a winning team in all 10 sports while claiming five Western Division titles, six teams qualifying for the county playoffs, four teams making it the final four and one team, Boys Baseball, winning the Palm Beach County Championship. Here's a review of the great success the Stallions achieved this year:

Back in the fall, the 2021-22 season began with a bang as the boys baseball team finished with a 9-1 regular season record, earned the number one seed in the playoffs and then knocked off rival Wellington Landings in the semi-finals and perennial powerhouse Christa McAuliffe in the finals en route to the county title. This was the second baseball championship in school history, the first coming back in 2008, also against Christa McAuliffe. The girls softball team played equally as well, finishing with a 7-3 overall record, two of which were one run losses, and missing out on the playoffs by one game. The team was strong both offensively and defensively, as well as getting excellent pitching performances in every game.

The next sports window saw superb performances by both the girls volleyball team and the boys soccer team. The girls volleyball team, in fact, had a historic year, going 10-0 in the regular season without dropping one game in any match (33 straight game wins), winning their second consecutive Western Division title, and getting to the final four of the county playoffs. The boys soccer team was just as impressive, finishing the regular season with only one loss and one tie and earning their own playoff bid. Though the season ended in the quarterfinals, the team did win one playoff round and produced another extremely strong season.

Following Winter Break, the Stallions winter teams picked up right where the fall teams left off. The girls basketball team finished with an impressive 9-1 regular season record and their third straight Western Division crown. The team also picked up one win in the playoffs, making it to the quarterfinals. The boys basketball team got off to a slow start, hitting the midpoint of the season with a 3-3 record after a pair of close losses. However, the grit and determination the team had was clear as they rattled off four straight wins, including one over division leader Crestwood, just barely missing out on the playoffs. The third winter team, girl's soccer, continued their dominance of the division, winning the title for the fifth straight season, this time with an undefeated 9-0-1 record. After earning a bye as the number one seed in the playoffs and winning in the second round of the postseason, the team went to the county semi-finals and finished the entire season without losing one game in regulation, only getting knocked out of the playoffs in penalty kicks.

The final season saw the return of boys and girls track and field as well as boys volleyball, three sports that had not seen competition since 2019. The track teams battled through a shortened season and dodged some stormy weather to find both individual and team success during their four meets. Both squads qualified a pair of relay teams for the county championships as well as another three competitors who competed individually in events. The final sport, boys volleyball, returned to prominence after a nearly 20 year drought, winning their first division title since 2003 with an 8-2 record. The team backed up their stellar regular season with a playoff win and a trip to the county quarter finals.

A special congratulation to 8th graders Tyler Johnson and Ashlyn Nevarez, this year's Male and Female Athlete of the Year. Tyler led the baseball team to the County Championship as well as helping the volleyball team to a division title. Ashlyn was a three sport star, leading the softball team as well as a starter for the basketball team and a contributor to the track and field team.

This great sports year was a testament to the outstanding athletes that Polo Park continues to produce, as well as some excellent coaching. Thanks go out to Coach Kaliser (Baseball and Girls Soccer), Coach Torres (Boys Soccer and Girls Basketball), Coach Besman (Girls Volleyball), Coach Pryor (Boys Basketball), Coach Hansen (Boys Track and Field), Coach Kohl (Girls Track and Field) and Coach Drogovich (Boys Volleyball) for doing such a great job leading their teams.

A very SPECIAL thanks to Athletic Director (and Softball Coach) Stacy Blackford for her tireless leadership and dedication to the athletic programs and the student-athletes at Polo Park.

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## Band

Wednesday May 11th and Thursday May 12th we held our annual Spring Concerts under the direction of Kevin Graham the school's band teacher. The Beginning Bands and Jazz Band performed on Wednesday evening, followed by Intermediate and Advanced Bands Thursday evening. Over three hundred parents, family members, teachers and administrators attended the concerts.

The Beginning Bands performed a variety of selections that included; Dragon Slayer, Themes from Jurassic Park, Surfin' USA, and Star Wars.

After the Beginning Bands the Jazz Band performed selections from Herbie Hancock as well as Sing, Sing, Sing by Louis Prima. Each jazz selection included improvisational performance by one or more students. This means the students performed solos where the music was created as they played.

The concert series concluded Thursday with performances by the Intermediate and Advanced Bands. Their performances included pieces such as Sword Dance, The Avengers, Disney Blockbusters and Pictures at an Exhibition.

The concerts provided a wonderful way to conclude this school year and allowed us to show how much the students have progressed as musicians.



*Intermediate Band*



*Advanced Band*



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# Stallion Sentinel

*For the Parents, Staff, Students,  
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## Eighth Grade Awards

On the evening of May 25, 2022, Polo Park held its eighth grade awards ceremony recognizing the achievements of many of our eighth graders.

