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Jordan Middle School PTA Newsletter

This Week:

Minimum Day

Thursday, December 21

Winter Break Begins

Friday, December 22

In This Issue

Jordan News

PAUSD News

PAUSD News

PTAC News

Onsite Afterschool

Community News

Jordan Volunteering
Opportunities

Sports Opportunities

How to Submit to eNews

JORDAN CALENDAR SUMMARY

December

21 Minimum Day

22 Winter Break Begins

January

8 School Resumes

11 PTA General Associate & Executive Meeting



Happy Holidays!!!

We wish all the Jaguars out there and their families a wonderful end of 2017 and a very happy and successful 2018.

Jordan eNews will take a quick break as well and will be back in your inbox on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

Jordan Links

[Jordan Website](#)

[Jordan PTA Website](#)

[Brunch & Lunch Menus](#)

[Infinite Campus](#)

[Subscribe to eNews](#)

Other Links

[PAUSD Website](#)

[Palo Alto Council of PTAs](#)

[Amazon Smile](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Sign up for one (or many) that fit your interest and/or skill set. Sign up online.

[UptoUs Jordan Middle School](#)

Questions? Email jordanptavolunteer@gmail.com.



NEW! How to Keep Kids Learning During Winter Break

The winter holiday break is a fun-filled time for you and your family to unwind and spend quality time together, but it will be over before you know it! Children's school success begins at home, and even the simplest steps can mean a big difference for your child's future.

TIP 1

* Read for pleasure. Whether your child is in the mood for holiday favorites like *The Night Before Christmas* or their favorite series, winter break is the perfect chance to stash the schoolbooks and have fun reading.

TIP 2

* Cook up a lesson. Ask your child for help in the kitchen to whip up some treats. Using measurements is good math practice, especially in fractions!

TIP 3

* Write thank-you notes. Whether your child is writing notes to gift-givers, teachers or neighbors, this is a great way to practice penmanship, spelling and grammar - plus, it teaches gratitude.

TIP 4

* Let kids help with online shopping. Need a last minute gift? Help your child shop online with you to help them work on computer and research skills.

TIP 5

* Maintain reasonable bedtimes. With no school to wake up early for, it's tempting to let your child become a night owl. A few days before school starts again, ease back into the regular schedule. Have a family game night. Chances are many of your family's favorite card and board games reinforce skills like reading, counting and drawing.

TIP 6

* Gather your family to play games you don't have time for on school nights. Make the most of car rides. Turn the drive to or from holiday gatherings into a fun opportunity to learn. You can look for license plates from different states, count the number of red or green cars you see or play license plate bingo! For more go to the California State PTA website.

JORDAN NEWS

NEW! The Essentials Drive for the Ecumenical Hunger Program

The Leadership Class has chosen to extend the Essentials Drive for the Ecumenical Hunger Program in EPA. This program serves people from our very own community. Please discuss with your student about what to bring to support this cause. (Household, hygiene items, canned food.) the drive runs through the end of the school day **12/20**. Thank you for supporting this service experience for all our students.

NEW! Challenge Day Volunteers Needed

We need a few more parent volunteers to help make this event a success! The shifts are from 7:40 am - 3:15 pm.

Please email our Assistant Principal, Magdalena Fittoria, at mfittoria@pausd.org to volunteer.

Please note that parents of students participating in Challenge Day CAN help on the day of the event - the facilitators will just make sure they are in a small group *not* with their own child.

Thank you for volunteering!

Jordan Challenge Days - January 18 & February 27, 2018

What is Challenge Day?

A one-day interactive program where students, staff, and community members come together to break down barriers and create connections.

- Using highly interactive and energetic activities, Challenge Day Leaders guide participants through an exploration of the ways and reasons people separate from each other, and model tools for creating connection and building community.
- Each Challenge Day consists of 85 students (7th and 8th grade), 25 adult volunteers, 15 Jordan Student Ambassadors (students who have participated in Challenge Day before), and 2 professional facilitators.

This is the Challenge Day Slide Show our 7th & 8th grade students are seeing in their Advisory Classes. Challenge Day [SLIDE-SHOW LINK](#).

NEW! Parent Ed Event: Building Resilient Children in a Fast-Paced, High Pressure Community

We will discuss the developmentally unique period that characterizes the middle school years. We will explore ways in which parents can support their students to build resilience, manage anxiety, cope with stress while effectively navigating an increasingly complicated social and technological landscape.

Speaker: Emily Ach, PhD

Assistant Clinical Professor

Stanford University School of Medicine

Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Science

Jordan 8th Grade Parent Network Meeting 01/19 8:30am (Jordan MPR)

All about Paly! Our 8th graders will be selecting their 9th grade Paly courses soon, and they'll be off to Paly before we know it. Get a head's up before the upcoming Paly-hosted parent meetings in Jan/Feb and come hear a panel of experienced Paly parents we've invited to discuss all things Paly: academics, athletics, TEAM, FLEX, transition from Jordan to Paly, and insider tips.

-Your 8th Grade Parent Network Coordinators: Nerissa (nerissaw@gmail.com), Amy (amyewardwell@yahoo.com), Shannon (shannon@colton.net), Lina (lina.liu@gmail.com), Asma (asma.rabbani@gmail.com)

Jordan Science Fair - Taking The Year OFF

Science Fair is OFF this year due to graduating parent volunteers and planning reorganization. If your student is interested in Science Fair for next year, please let us know. This has been a popular event at Jordan and requires lots of staff and parent support. Parents volunteers will be provided with all the needed contact/planning materials. If interested, please contact Oindrilla Ray odray@pacbell.net and Sara Woodham-johnsson [<sawoodham@gmail.com>](mailto:sawoodham@gmail.com). Hope to see you next year.

The Library and the Library Club need your help!

We are collecting prizes for our annual reading celebration and trivia contest, the Battle of the Books, and would like to offer some premium prizes to our participants who demonstrate exceptional dedication to reading. If you would like to donate a prize, you can find our wish list here:

<http://a.co/bz0M9T2>. Thank you for supporting literacy and the love of reading at Jordan Middle School!

Upcoming Just Parties

January 19 - Smore's Bonfire Party!

You can still sign up for parties! Click [HERE](#) to view the parties and sign up!

PAUSD NEWS

NEW! Superintendent's Weekly Message from Friday Dec 15

We will re-post Karen Hendricks' Weekly communications her each week, in case you missed it on her previous Infinite Campus email to you.

"To open with a quote from Dr. Suess, *How did it get so late so soon?*" Continue reading at: <https://www.pausd.org/explore-pausd/news/superintendents-weekly-message-%E2%80%93-december-15-2017>

PTAC NEWS

2018 Palo Alto Chinese New Year Fair (Mar 4, 2018)

Poster Competition: The organizers of the above event are calling all PAUSD students for a Poster Competition to design a brochure cover for the 2018 PA

CNY Fair. Posters must be between 8.5" x 11" and 12" x 18" on unlined paper and any media (crayons, markers, paint, etc.) are accepted. Include "2018 Palo Alto Chinese New Year Fair" and the theme "Year of Dog " on the poster, and write your name, grade, school and an email contact on the back. Please submit entries to the front desk of Mitchell Park Library by Jan 12, 2018. E-mail cheri161@yahoo.com for more information. Entries may be displayed at the Fair, which is organized by Palo Alto Chinese Parent Club, a non-profit organization that serves the Palo Alto community, and co-sponsored by PTA Council.

ONSITE AFTER SCHOOL

Wizbot Winter After School

Wizbots is THE premier place for girls and boys to learn the art and science of robotics. Using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® and Java coding, our labs are a great way for kids to dabble in robotics programming and design for the first time or build on skills they have already developed. Exercising both creativity and problem-solving, students learn engineering, programming, math, and physics through our unique, gamified curriculum in a hands-on, collaborative way guided by experienced and caring mentors. Parents can experience all the fun too with student project videos posted online to see and share! We offer affordable after school sessions which begin on January 22 at Jordan. Visit www.wizbots.com/afterschool to enroll.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW! Sensory Sensitive performance of a Holiday production of "Around the World in 80 Days"

Wed, Dec 27 7:30 PM, Lucie Stern Theatre, Palo Alto

TheatreWorks is having a sensory sensitive performance of the Holiday production of "Around the World in 80 Days" for children and families with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other sensory and social sensitivities. The ticket price for this performance is \$35. Questions? Contact boxoffice@theatreworks.org or 650-463-1960.

9 Simple Tips for Biking In The Rain

As the days get shorter and colder fewer students are riding, leading to increased traffic congestion around schools. Check out these helpful safety tips and videos on riding safely all season long. "9 Simple Tips for Biking In The Rain". <https://youtu.be/Derm0w9viac>

Fiery Arts Glass Workshops at Palo Alto High School

Sat & Sun, Jan 6-7, Feb to Jun 2018 9-3 pm at Palo Alto High School's Glass Studio

These workshops are open to the public, students and parents. You learn glass blowing technique in this hands-on 2-day weekend workshop. Advanced Sign up is required. Class limit is 4. Teens and adults. \$425 per person. Proceeds benefit the Palo Alto High School Fiery Arts Boosters. Contact: David Camner, founder of Paly Glass, dcamner@pausd.org, for more information & dates

Discover the Magic of the Annual BayLUG Holiday LEGO® Show

Dec. 8 - Jan 14, 11 AM - 3:45 PM, Frank Livermore Learning Center, 351 Homer Ave.

The Museum of American Heritage (MOAH) is welcoming back the LEGO® User Group's (BayLUG) and Bay Area LEGO® Train Club's (BayLTC) Annual Holiday LEGO® Show Pop-Up Exhibit. BayLUG and BayTLC will be displaying a variety of creative holiday scenes. Browse through the imaginative holiday creations, which include holiday trains, miniature cities and more. The displays are different each year. General admission is \$3 per person; cash only at the door. BayLUG and MOAH members are free. The museum is closed on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2017.

El Camino Youth Symphony New Member Auditions

Calling all French horn, saxophone, bassoon, cello, and percussion players:

The El Camino Youth Symphony is inviting young, motivated musicians with at least one year of private lessons to audition for our preparatory orchestras.

ECYS offers after-school music programs for all levels of ability, from our Chamber Players Orchestra, for students just beginning their musical journey, to the Senior Symphony, where players challenge themselves with professional-level repertoire. Auditions will be held in December and early January. The program runs through the spring, and groups meet weekly for rehearsal at Terman Middle School. Contact loribingham@ecys.org to learn about setting up an audition. Visit <http://www.ecys.org> for more information.

Know a Child Who Loves to Sing? Cantabile Youth Singers Invites You to Come Sing With Us!

Registration and auditions for grades K-9 happening now. Registration for our Winter/Spring 2018 semester opens Nov 15, 2017.

Cantabile is a community-based children's chorus serving the greater Silicon Valley area, striving to bring the highest quality musical education in a choral setting to young singers from ages 4 years to 18. With our carefully planned and innovative curriculum, we build a foundation in choral musicianship, music literacy, and appreciation, while also fostering a caring and supportive family-atmosphere for friendships to grow for our singers. We offer a number of after-school rehearsal options, each featuring a wide range of musical activities, including singing, movement, improvisation, instrumental activities, and musicianship. Singers in grades 3-9 should call today to arrange an audition, while singers in grades K-2 may register for a class beginning November 15. Come sing with us, as we embark upon our exciting 2018 spring semester! To audition, or to learn more about our chorus levels and our upcoming semester, please contact us: info@cantabile.org 650. 424.1410 Classes are conveniently located in Los Altos. Visit cantabile.org

Play Palooza - The Children's Theatre Ten Minute Playwriting Contest

Submission Deadline: Fri, Dec 22 @ 12AM

The Children's Theatre is pleased announce the 2017-18 *Play Palooza Ten Minute Playwriting contest*. Play Palooza gives young writers an excellent opportunity to showcase their talents. Students can submit original work in three categories: Elementary School (3rd-5th grade), Middle School (6th-8th

grade), and High School (9th-12th grade). Winning plays receive a staged reading at the Children's Theatre, and winning playwrights receive prizes donated by the Friends of the Palo Alto Children's Theatre. Submissions can be submitted electronically to christopher.luciani@cityofpaloalto.org

Shop for school holiday camps on ActivityHero to raise money for Palo Alto PTA

A reminder that PAUSD is off for winter break from Dec 22 - Jan 7. High schools also have Jan 8 off. You can find holiday camps on ActivityHero and when you book online with this link, the PTA earns a % of your purchase.

<https://www.activityhero.com/go/paloaltopta>

Whole Foods (downtown Palo Alto) Nickels for Non-Profits

Oct 15 to Jan 15th

Each time you shop at the Whole Foods Market downtown PA between Oct 15 to Jan 15 and bring in your own bags, Whole Foods will donate 5 cents per bag to our Palo Alto PTA Council. The PTAC will be able to use these funds for more programs and events for our PAUSD students, staff, and parents!

Society of Bookworms @CH

Wed, Dec 20, 4:00-5:00PM, Children's Library, 1276 Harriet St.

Join us in a discussion of the Louis Sachar's thrilling adventure, *Fuzzy Mud*. A limited number of copies are available for pick-up at Children's Library.

Registration Required. Grades 4-6 only.

Special End of Year Teen Writing Club Meeting @ RI

Thurs, Dec 21, 4:00 -5:30PM, Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Rd.

Open to new and existing members! Join us for a special end of year writing club project where we will be making creative keepsakes based on writing prompts and activities. Registration Required. Grades 6-12 only.

Teen Friday Movie @ RI

Fri, Dec 22, 4:00 -6:00PM, Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Rd.

Celebrate the start of winter break with a double screen showing at the library! Audience will vote on the movie the day of the event. Registration Required. Grades 6-12 only.

JORDAN VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering at Jordan

There are many volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Sign up for one (or many) that fit your interests and/or skill set. Sign up online at UptoUs:

<https://www.uptous.com/communities/JordanMiddleSchool>

UptoUs login instructions:

Login: your email address

Password: your existing UptoUs password OR ptavolunteer (if you are new to UptoUs)

- Once logged in, See Jordan Middle School under My Communities

- Under Jordan Middle School Community on the left see the various sub communities requesting volunteers
- Click on a sub community (e.g., PTA Volunteers, Music Volunteers, etc., to see volunteer opportunities)
- Signup sheets are located under "Activities and Signups" for each event

Volunteers are essential to implementing many of the programs and activities at Jordan. Questions? E-mail jordanptavolunteer@gmail.com.

Thank YOU so much for volunteering!

Noon Angels Wanted

We need Noon Angels! Noon Angels help keep our students safe during lunchtime. Our assistant principal, Magdalena Fittoria, invites you to come to a Noon Angels orientation scheduled for Tuesday September 12, 11:30-12:15 in room N-1. She will provide us with a purpose, instructions, a tour of the school grounds, as well as Q & A. Your time is valuable and we appreciate your willingness to watch out for the safety of our kids. We could not do this without your commitment! To sign up for the orientation and to sign up to volunteer, go to https://www.uptous.com/uptous.htm?_flowId=main-flow&runRouter=true# Questions? Please contact Sachi Hwangbo sachi_hwangbo@yahoo.com.

SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES

Palo Alto Council of PTAs Sports Page

PAPTAC maintains a web page featuring calendars, clinics, tryouts and camps for Peninsula sports teams of interest to Jordan Middle School students.

Web page: <http://ptac.paloaltopta.org/sports-and-activities/>

Palo Alto Council of PTAs Sports Page

SUBMIT AN ITEM TO THE eNEWS

For your Jordan related event, send a blurb including title, location, time and a brief description of your event to jordanweeklynews@gmail.com

For events relevant to the whole PAUSD community, you can also submit to ptaenews@yahoo.com

Jordan eNews Submission Deadline: **Thursday at 6 pm** for the following Sunday eNews

SUBSCRIBE TO THE eNEWS

If someone you know would like to subscribe to the Jordan eNews please point them to [this web page](#).

Best regards,
Yumei Xiong and Anabel Pieper
Co-Editors, Jordan eNews

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