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Jordan Middle School PTA Newsletter

This Week:

NO SCHOOL - MLK Jr. Birthday

Monday, January 15

Challenge Day

Thursday, January 18

8th Grade Parent Network Meeting

Friday, January 19, 8:30am, MPR

Club Fair

Friday, January 19, Lunch, Hugh Center Court

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Jordan Links

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JORDAN CALENDAR SUMMARY

January

- 15** NO SCHOOL - MLK Jr. Birthday
- 18** Challenge Day 1 (8th Grade)
- 19** 8th Grade Parent Network Meeting
- 19** Club Fair
- 22** 2nd Semester Clubs officially start
- 24** Parent Ed Event: Building Resilient Children
- 25** 6th Grade Parent Network Meeting
- 31** 8th Grade Parent Open House at Paly

February

- 2** 7th Grade Parent Network Meeting
- 5-9** Spring BOGO Book Fair
- 8** PTA Association & Exec. Meeting
- 23** 8th Grade Parent Network Meeting
- 27** Challenge Day 2

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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.



UPDATED! Jordan Clubs

The 2nd semester of Jordan Clubs is about to begin! The Club Creation forms are available in the main office!

Important dates:

1/19: Club Fair during lunch, Hugh Center Court

1/22: Clubs officially start

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](#).

JORDAN NEWS

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!

NEW! California Dashboard Reports School Performance

ALL PARENTS interested in learning more about Jordan Middle School can access the California School Dashboard. The Dashboard is available in various languages under the TRANSLATE tab. Please click to see how Jordan Middle School compares to other California schools in districts you may also be familiar. For more information please contact our School Principal, Ms. Valerie Royaltey-Quandt at Jordan Middle School. Dashboard Link is provided here for your convenience.

<https://www.caschooldashboard.org/#/ReportDetail/43696416060065/3/2>

NEW! Jordan Winter Play Auditions 1/16

Auditions for *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* will be on **Tuesday January 16th from 3:15-5:00** in the MPR. Callback auditions will be on 1/18. This madcap version of the woodland hero who robs from the rich to give back to the poor has been likened to Monty Python meets Mel Brooks. Auditions are open to all Jordan students and there are great roles for boys and girls! Students interested in auditioning or being on crew need to pick up an audition packet outside B-3. All forms are due on audition day. For more information or to download forms visit the Drama website or contact Lee Ann Gray at lgray@pausd.org.

Jordan 8th Grade Parent Network Meeting

Friday, January 19, 8:30am, 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)

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

Wednesday, January 24, 7pm, Jordan MPR

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

NEW! 6th Grade Parent Network Meeting - Supporting our kids in 6th grade

Thursday, January 25, 11am-12pm, N1

Guidance counselor, Kristen Hartley, will speak about what to expect and look out for (in terms of stress, anxiety, etc.) this semester in our 6th graders. Meet Audrey Lee, our Counseling and Support Services for Youth (CASSY) counselor. CASSY is contracted by the district and replaces Adolescent Counseling Services, ACS). Meet Susan Curry Sykes (Jordan alum), former French teacher, PAUSD parent, mental health and part time guidance counselor at Jordan.

NEW! Jordan PTA Needs Your Input

This is a PTA Bylaws Amendment year for Jordan PTA. We will be taking community input for any and all amendments needed to make our organization work even better for you. Please write to or email Jade Chao at jordanptapresident@gmail.com.

NEW! Picking the Dream Team - Jordan PTA Executive Board

We will shortly be convening the Jordan PTA (2018-2019) Nominating Committee to form next year's PTA Executive Board. Do you want to know what is happening at school in real time? Do you enjoy seeing students and making events happen at school to enrich their daily lives. Then, you should think about serving on the PTA. All positions are OPEN at this time. Monthly meetings, except December. Please contact Kristina Vetter at kvetter@me.com. If you are also great with people and 6th grade parent, we especially invite you to join the nominating committee. Serve with your friends, it is a great way to deepen your relationship with amazing folks! Kindly email Ann Balva at ann@balva.com.

2018-2019

PTA President

Executive Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

VP Parent Education

Vice Chair Parent Ed

VP Staff Appreciation & Events

Vice Chair SA&E

VP Community Outreach

VP Ways & Means

Vice Chair W&M

VP Communications

Vice Chair Communications

Parent Network Coordinator

Parliamentarian

Historian

Auditor

NEW! Free Concert at PALY

Several Jordan students got accepted into PAUSD Middle School Honor Band. They will be giving a free concert on **January 21, at 3:30pm**, at PALY Performing Arts Center (approximately 60 minutes in length).

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>. 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 18 - Sip and Swirl
January 19 - Smore's Bonfire Party!
January 20 - Ridge Wine and Cowgirl Creamery Cheese Party
January 24 - Kid's Pottery Class
January 25 - Winter Yoga Party & Dinner for Moms
January 27 - Chocolate Workshop @ Timothy Adams Chocolates

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>

NEW! PAUSD Superintendent Survey

The school district is interested in your input as they seek to hire a new Superintendent. This survey is designed to gather your perceptions of the school district and the importance of various characteristics found in effective superintendents. The information will be used to determine the desired characteristics of the next Superintendent. The survey closes on January 16th. The survey is conducted by a search firm, which ensures that your individual responses are kept anonymous and confidential.

<https://survey2.ecragroup.com/index.php/735768>

Search timeline: <https://www.pausd.org/explore-pausd/news/2017-superintendent-search-timeline>

PTAC NEWS

NEW! Special Education Workshop: The ABCs of the IEP

Tues, January 30th, 10:00am-12:00 noon, Sobrato Center, 350 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City

Do you have questions about your child's IEP? Would you like to know how to advocate for your child's special education rights? Ms. Karis Daggs, an attorney with OCRA (Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy) will be our speaker. Hosted by Opening Doors PTA, the Palo Alto CAC for Special Education and PTAC.

Cantonese and Mandarin translation available. Register at <http://bit.ly/2D2ame8>

For questions or to carpool, contact paloaltocac@gmail.com

NEW! How Does Sugar Affect Your Health and What You Can Do About It

Wed, Feb 7, 6:30-8:30pm, SDC Room, District Office, 25 Churchill Ave, Palo Alto

Join us for an educational night on sugar. Learn how sugar came to be ubiquitous in everything we eat, and became a number one health issue due to its harmful effects on the human body. As parents, you will also get some great tips on how to combat sugar in your household and diet, and reintroduce great nutrition to your kids. Patricia Caldera, Ph.D will be presenting on behalf of the Hypoglycemia Support Foundation and Dr Lustig education program dedicated to changing our views of processed food with the purpose of ending food related illnesses and promote good health. We encourage parents to bring their children.

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! Ongoing Stanford University Brain Study on Executive Function Skills**

Looking for children ages 7 and up with a diagnosis of ADHD or with no diagnoses to participate in a study exploring changes in brain function in response to a novel neurofeedback training. Participation involves 6 sessions of neurofeedback training and 2 sessions of behavioral assessments. Contact

Lindsay Chromik at lchromik@stanford.edu or 650-724-2939 for more information or to enroll. For general information regarding participant rights, contact 1- 866-680-2906.

NEW! Silicon Valley Boychoir Auditions

Thurs, Jan 18 and Fri, Jan 19 by appointment, Palo Alto

Auditions for the January semester will be held at the choir's rehearsal location near downtown Palo Alto (600 Homer Ave). Open to 2nd-5th grade boys. High school and middle school boys with choral experience may audition for upper levels. SVB provides a personalized approach to teaching singing, music theory, and sight-reading, while providing flexible scheduling for busy families. In addition to their own winter and spring concerts, SVB performs for local events including appearances with Stanford University Symphonic Chorus and Orchestra, West Bay Opera, Schola Cantorum of Mountain View, and singing the national anthem at sporting events.

Email info@svboychoir.org or visit <http://svboychoir.org>

NEW! Fiery Arts Glass Workshops at Palo Alto High School

Sat & Sun, 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

NEW! "Rock" Your World with Chemistry

Sun, Jan 21, 12-1PM, Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Rd.

Join us if you are interested in nature and general chemistry. Meet new friends and learn new things. Grades 5-8.

NEW! Teen Maker Tuesday

Tues, Jan 16, 4:30-5:30PM, Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Rd.

An interactive program for teens featuring different Maker related projects. Registration Required. Registration opens 3 weeks in advance. Grades 6-12 only.

NEW! ART CLASSES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE PALO ALTO ART CENTER!

Unleash the creativity in your student by signing up for one of our Teen & Tween Art Classes. We have several classes with openings for students ages 11-18. Online Registration is open for classes focusing on Jewelry Making, Ceramics, Drawing, Photography, Mixed Media Painting and Watercolor. Visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/paloalto/Home>

Questions? Please visit our website or contact Rebecca Passarello (rebecca.passarello@cityofpaloalto.org or 650-617-3509).

Paly Media Arts Open House

Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 6:00-8:00 PM, in the Paly Media Arts Center

Please join us for the third annual Paly Media Arts Center (MAC) Open House! Come and hear about all of the media arts programs and meet some of the

students and staff who run them. There will be tours of the building, information about Camp Mac and the MAC Boosters, and you will see Paly students busy creating the next edition of the school newspaper, The Campanile. If your student is interested in any type of media arts, come see what Paly has to offer. Drinks and dessert will be served.

Sports Performance Training

Februrary 3, 2018, 8:30am-10:00am, Paly Football Field

\$25/athlete, Great for high school students and adults!

There's no off-season when you are looking to achieve optimal sports performance! Come learn from the experts and get a great training workout too. Event will begin with a proper, revamped, intentional, sport-specific warm-up and athletic drills focused on the following areas: mobility vs. flexibility, deceleration in sports, hip hinge and hip and ankle mobility, and core training for athletes. Hosted by Marc Guillet, Agile Physical Fitness; Nick Weiss, PerformanceGaines; and Christopher Gaines, PerformanceGaines. Come ready to learn and move! Send request for tickets to PAHSsportsboosters@gmail.com.

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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