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Jordan PTA eNews

August 20, 2017

Jordan Middle School PTA Newsletter

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NEW! PiE Announces Challenge Grant

PiE has just launched its 2017-2018 fundraising campaign. Please join us and help make a difference in the education of all kids in our community. PiE funds go to every Palo Alto district school and help principals staff programs that deliver a well-rounded education. In all Palo Alto schools, PiE's funding provides enrichment and support in the areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), the Arts, and Wellness and Support. PiE-

Other Links[PAUSD Website](#)[Palo Alto Council of PTAs](#)[Amazon Smile](#)

funded staff make a positive impact on our kids every day.

Double your impact. Between now and September 5, gifts and pledges will be matched by a \$500,000 Back-To-School Challenge Grant. Please donate today at <http://papie.org/donate>



JORDAN NEWS

Jordan 101 Held on Monday Aug 14

Principal Valerie Royaltey-Quant, a.k.a. Ms. Q, welcomed all new and 6th Grade Parents on Monday, Aug 14th in MPR. In addition to welcoming all 6th Grade Student during their Meet & Greet, Ms. Q also gave a powerpoint presentation to explain all the things a new parent would want to know. In addition, eight campus groups were sitting at tables around MPR to answer questions from new parents. For those who were unable to attend, we are working on obtaining slides to share with the 6th Grade Parent Network.

Jaguar Journey - Success!!

THANK YOU to all 6th Grade Parents and Parent Volunteers for making our 6th Graders feel welcome through Jaguar Journey. Jaguar Journey is the New Student Orientation program that took place on the first two days of school. If you need directions, ask a 6th grader. Lockers? Not a problem. Say Cheese! You Bet. A special THANK YOU to Teacher Patricia Balbuena and Parent CoChairs Erin Mershon and Sonia Sethi, too. They had been hard at work months ago to make JJ run as smoothly as possible. All 6th Grade Parents are

invited to continue the journey at 6th Grade Parent Network meetings - you'll be receiving the dates and times for the entire year soon. The first 6th Grade Parent Network meeting is on Friday, September 15 from 8:30-9:30am in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR).

Jordan PTA BTS Packets

A big THANK YOU to all the amazing and dedicated parent volunteers who helped with the BTS Packets. A special THANK YOU to Asma Rabbani, Mabel Wei, and their families' support for undertaking this project. We appreciate everyone for sending in a PTA donation. You can still donate and make purchase online (add web store link here).

If you have any BTS packet feedback that you would like to share as we think about streamlining this process for next year, please email Kristina Vetter at kvetter@me.com or Jade Chao jordanptapresident@gmail.com.

Jordan Library & Book Fair

The Fall Book Fair kicked off at Friday's BTS BBQ. The Book Fair continues for an entire week. If you missed it at the BBQ, you can still stop by after school or during lunch and brunch to check out new titles. This is a great time to be stocking up on all new book titles. You can help your 6th/7th/8th grader develop a great reading habit. All proceeds benefit Jordan Library. Students welcome to sign up or show up as cashiers at brunch, lunch, or after school. We will train all volunteers even though the cashier position is really simple. We can hold books for you if your student forgets to bring money. Do add taxes. Cash and credit cards are accepted. Hurry and don't wait.

Fall Book Fair Hours (**8/21-8/25**)

M-F 8:15 am - 4:30 pm

(Hours May Vary Based on Number of Volunteers)

M-F 3:30 - 4:30 pm

(Front of School Near Bike Cage).

Please sign up as a book fair volunteer. We need help to supervise class visits, restock book shelves and set up/take down display.

Volunteer sign-up: <https://goo.gl/tCyocV>

Question? Email Jordan Librarians: Amanda Collins acollins@pausd.org or Garth Rogers grogers@pausd.org.

NEW! First Principal's Coffee

Friday, 8/25, 2:30pm, MPR

The first Principal's Coffee will be on Friday, **August 25th@** 2:30 pm in MPR. Please come and meet the Jordan Principal, Valerie. All grades, all parents

welcome, and neighbors, too. PTA will provide light refreshments. Don't miss your opportunity to hear from and speak with the Principal. Questions? Email Beti Loomis, Jordan School Secretary at bloomis@pausd.org.

NEW! 8th Grade Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, 8/23, After School, HCC

Attention 8th Graders!! You are invited to the popular Welcome Back to School Ice Cream Social at Hugh Center Court right after school ends on Wednesday! This popular event is only for our newest 8th graders. Cool treats will be provided by the PTA. We need three parent and/or 7th grade volunteers to help cold chain goodies from store to HCC and to help serve. If you can be available on Wed (**8/23**) from 1 pm - 2:15 pm, please email Jade Chao at jordanptapresident@gmail.com

NEW! Upcoming Parent Ed Programs: "Talking to Our Sons About Sex!" And "Talking to Our Daughters About Sex!"

If you squirm at reading this subject line, you are not alone! We know how hard it is to broach this difficult subject, and that's why we are excited to offer two new parent education programs aimed at helping mothers navigate conversations with your sons/daughters about SEX.

"Talking to Our Sons About Sex!" is a four-week program for mothers of boys ages 10-14 years old. Classes will be offered:

Tuesdays, September 5th-September 26th, 11:30-1:30 in Palo Alto. Please plan to attend all 4 classes. Please Register **by 8/30**.

"Talking to Our Daughters About Sex" is a four-week program for mothers of girls ages 10-13 years old. Classes will be offered:

Wednesday mornings, September 27th-October 18th , 9:30-11:30 in Palo Alto. Please plan to attend all 4 classes. Please Register **by 9/24**.

For more information please contact: Laura Prentiss, MSW at: lnprentiss@gmail.com or Liza Baskind, M.S., MFT at: lizabaskind@gmail.com

NEW! Election Result for Parent Members of the Jordan Site Council

Thanks to everyone who voted in the election of the parent Site Council Members. The newly elected members are Teru Clavel, Manuela Wei, and Erin Mershon, and they have been elected to a two-year term.

The first Site Council meeting will be on Tuesday, **September 12** starting at 3.30 pm in room N1 (room N1 is at the north end of the building with the new classrooms). As always, the meeting is open to the public.

Note: An earlier calendar item incorrectly stated that the first Side Council meeting was going to be on August 22.

NEW! Jordan International Night - Planning Underway

"Building A Vibrant & Diverse School Community"

Planning is now underway to celebrate Jordan diverse cultures at the Jordan International Night on **September 27**, Wednesday. We have over 100+ countries represented by our student body! Come celebrate our students' heritage with music, dance, fun, food, and prizes. Jordan Spanish, French, and Mandarin Class students will be invited to give presentations in the languages they are studying.

If you are interested in joining the planning core, we still need our second co-chair to coordinate this big event. Think about giving a performance of music, dance or other formats? Plan to sponsor a country table? Sign up now! The slots do go fast.

For all inquires, please email: jordaninternationalfair@gmail.com.

Jordan PTA 2017-2018 School Year - First Meetings

Jordan PTA 2017-2018 Executive board met for the first time on Friday, August 11. The first GENERAL PTA meeting will be held on **September 14 @ 8:30** am in Library to vote on PTA budget and discuss other agenda items.

Agenda Items? Budget? Questions? Email: jordanptapresident@gmail.com.

Save the Date! Jordan's "Just Parties" Big Kick-Off Event!

Please join your fellow Jordan parents on **October 12** from 7pm - 10pm to socialize, reconnect, and make some new friends - all to help out our school! Appetizers on us and a no-host bar at the University Club in Palo Alto! While enjoying the evening, you will have the opportunity to sign up for PARTIES and other fun gatherings that will be hosted by Jordan parents throughout the school year -- so don't forget to bring your checkbook or credit card and your calendar! CALLING ALL PARTY HOSTS! We need more parties! Please get together with a friend (or three) to plan and host a party! It could be a small intimate gathering or a blowout; your choice! Bring your creativity and we will bring you the guests! Sample ideas for parties: Cinco de Mayo party, Night at the Oscars, How to Cook Italian, Chinese Dumpling Making Party, 6th grade Mom/Daughter Spa/Manicure. For more party ideas or to register your party (**by October 4**,) please contact one of the following "Just Parties" coordinators:

Julie O'Grady: Julie@ogradycm.com

Susan Scheel: susanischeel@sbcglobal.net

Wendie Karel: wendiekarel@hotmail.com

NEW! Bike to Jordan - Lock Your Bikes - Deter Theft

Parents please remind your student to lock his or her bike inside the bike cages. Although many bikes have been registered and are parked in locked bike cages during the school day, the bike cage is opened and remains open weekends and after school hours. Student should be locking their bikes to the bike racks or something permanently affixed to the ground. This is to deter bike theft. For any bike cage questions, please email James Lubbe at jlubbe@pausd.org. For Safe Routes To School maps and tips, please email Deborah Bennett, Safe Routes To School Champion at degb.alumni.rice.edu.

NEW! City of Palo Alto Police Department

This is a friendly reminder to Jordan school community. Please do NOT park your vehicle along any curb painted RED color. You will be ticketed. This space is reserved for emergency vehicles such as fire trucks and ambulances. Thank you for your cooperation. Let's all do our part to keep Jordan a safe space for all our children.

Recommending New Name for Our School - Application Extension Now Due Friday Sept 1

Dr. Max McGee is looking to fill the Jordan School Naming Committee to recommend a new name for our Middle School. If you are a student, parent, staff, alumni, or even community members, you are encouraged to apply. Please note the application due date has been extended due to summer break and folks traveling schedules. Please thoughtfully consider applying to be a member of this committee because we need 6th and 7th graders student representation. If you are a 6th or 7th grade parent, this will be of special interest to you. Don't wait. Here is a [link](#) to the application.

- **Until Sept 1, 2017:** **Applications for Advisory Committee Accepted**
- **Sept 11, 2017:** **Advisory Committee selected**
- December 2017: Committee recommends new names for Board consideration
- January 2018: Board holds public hearing
- February 2018: Board approves names for the middle schools

We are more than happy to assist you in fill out the application or answer questions you may have. Visit our table at Jordan 101 and pick up an application. Questions? Email: jordanptapresident@gmail.com.

Science Fridays! Science, Engineering and Technology Fair Evaluators and Volunteers!

Couple of the most fun things at Jordan: Science Fridays! And the Science, Engineering and Technology Fairs and Science Expo in January.

On Science Fridays we have scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, professors, Paly/Gunn students come in to talk about their work and research. Our past topics have ranged from black holes, Google glass technology, sports medicine, wearables, finance, chemistry blowups...just pure fun! Would you like to come and talk to our students? Please send us an email. Oindrila Ray:

odray@pacbell.net, Sara Woodham Johnsson: sawoodham@gmail.com and Joo Chia: joochia@gmail.com

We need many evaluators for our science fair projects. The students get to have one on one time with the evaluator and often find the experience enriching. As evaluators ourselves, we have been blown away by the work and imagination of our students. So much creativity and energy!! Sign up to volunteer! https://www.uptous.com/uptous.htm?_flowId=main-flow&runRouter=true#

And the then the science fair night...we have always had a huge turnout and for the past few years...liquid nitrogen ice cream!!! Nothing like the drama of seeing your ice cream emerging from the clouds of nitrogen. Delicious! Hoping to have it again this year. Though the best part is the student posters and talking to the students and of course the expo!

We need volunteers to pull it off and make a success of it! Please volunteer: https://www.uptous.com/uptous.htm?_flowId=main-flow&runRouter=true#

2017-18 PTA Volunteering Opportunities at Jordan

Now is the time to get involved! Jordan and your middle school student need you! Jordan has some great executive and non-executive Board positions still available for 2017-18. Please consider volunteering for one and GET involved / STAY involved at Jordan! See a position below that you like? Please contact one of the PTA volunteers listed below. Additionally, if you want to get involved but don't see a match, please still contact us and we can help you find the right fit! Go JORDAN!

6th and 7th Grade Parent Network Coordinators (3-5 per grade)

Grade level network coordinators organize monthly meetings for parents to gather socially and discuss topics relevant to middle school and their particular grade. This is a non-executive board position. Meetings may take place in someone's home, in a coffee shop, or at school (if able to reserve in advance).

Communications and a discussion board are facilitated using online groups,

which are set up and maintained by the parent network coordinator for all grades.

Parliamentarian

Executive Board Position. Provide advice regarding parliamentary procedures and by-laws. Attend monthly Executive Board meetings and Association meetings. Convenes Nominating Committee in Spring for following year. Revise by-laws every 2 years.

Book Fair Chair (1-2)

Work with two (2) Jordan Librarians to coordinate four book selling events: Scholastic during the first week of school, a holiday event at Books, Inc. in December, Scholastic in the Spring, and Kepler's in May. Schedule dates of book events, arrange advertising, organize volunteer schedule, solicit for volunteers, organize logistics of set-up and close-down, report financial information to Scholastic, and coordinate refreshments when needed.

International Fair Coordinators (3-5)

International Fair Coordinators meet in August and September to plan for the annual International Fair. Country Tables (food and cultural displays), evening program (dances, music, art display) and raffle prize giveaways -- are the program's major components. This is a great way to work with a small group of parents to plan and carry out this popular and highly anticipated Jordan Wed evening community building event that celebrates our school's diversity. Event Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 5:30 pm - 7 pm.

PTA Website Administrator

Co-Science Fair Chair

Family Buddies Coordinator

Meals on Wheels Coordinator

Service Day Coordinator

VTP Co-coordinator

If interested, please contact

Ann Balva: ann@balva.com

Monica Davisson: monicaandwill@yahoo.com

Lisa Daly: lisamariadaly@gmail.com

Lucy Lee: lucyleemd@gmail.com

Joleen Roach: jroach@pausd.org

Kirstin Sego: kirstinhope@yahoo.com

Sumita Vasudeva: sumita.vasudeva@gmail.com

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PAUSD NEWS

PAUSD Now Hiring Student Attendants for Special Education

PAUSD Classified Human Resources is recruiting staff to work with special education students in elementary and secondary schools. The hired Student Attendants will provide support to students with specialized learning needs 15-30 hours per week. If interested, apply with an EDJOIN application <http://www.edjoin.org/Home/JobPosting/869936>
For additional information, please contact Classhr@pausd.org, (650)3295950

Coaches Needed for Middle School Fall Sports

The City of Palo Alto is looking for additional coaches for after school flag football and girls' volleyball at Terman, Jordan and JLS. Currently not all interested students can play these sports because of a shortage of coaches. If you have the time and like the sport, please consider coaching so that more kids can play!

Paid and volunteer positions are available. Pay depends on experience and ranges from \$12.00 - \$16.76 per hour. Coaches must be at least 16 years old and have at least one year of coaching experience, or two years of playing experience, in the particular sport.

Practices begin the **last week of August** and run through the end of October, with NO weekend practices or games.

Girls' volleyball practice times are Monday -Thursday at either 3-4:30, 4:30-5:45 or 5:45-7 pm, with occasional Friday practices if needed.

Flag football practices are Monday-Friday 3:15-4:30 pm.

If interested in more information, please contact Chase Hartmann, City of Palo Alto Middle School Athletics Coordinator, at chase.hartmann@cityofpaloalto.org

ONSITE AFTER SCHOOL

Nonprofit Classic Math School Open House

August 24, Thursday, 7pm, N5

We would like to invite parents with students (K-10) to our annual Classic Math School Open House, which will be held on August 24th, Thursday, at 7:00 pm in Jordan Middle School (750 North California Ave, Palo Alto), room N5.

This is a great opportunity to meet our teachers, learn first hand about Classic Math School overall teaching philosophy, methods, and principles.

Your questions will be answered, while your students will be offered a Free Interactive Placement Test. Light refreshment will be served.

www.classicmath.org

650-224-4226

Gurus Education is Back with Personal Finance and Public Speaking & Debate Classes

Public Speaking & Debate Combo Series: 6th - 8th grade

Mondays 3:15 - 4:15 pm

09/25/2017 - 05/14/2018 (No class 11/20, 12/25, 01/1, 01/8, 01/15, 02/19, 03/12, 04/2)

Number of Classes: 26

Single Payment Option: \$495

Installments: \$75

Room Number: TBD

Personal Finance Series : 6th - 8th grade

Wednesdays 2 - 3 pm

10/04/2017 - 04/25/2018 (No class 11/22, 12/27, 01/3, 04/4)

Number of Classes: 26

Single Payment Option: \$495

Installments: \$75

Room Number: TBD

COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW! Boy Scout Troop 50 Welcome Back Barbecue

August 27, 2017 at the Redwood Picnic Area, Mitchell Park, Palo Alto
Palo Alto Boy Scout Troop 50 is having a barbecue on Sunday, August 27, 2017 from 11 am to 2:30 pm. Troop 50 is inviting kids interested in scouting and their parents. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about Troop 50. The free barbecue will be at the Redwood Picnic Area of Mitchell Park, 600 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto 94303. For more information about Troop 50, please see the web site <https://sites.google.com/view/patroop50/home>.

NEW! Project Safety Net (PSN) Collaborative Action Teams Meeting

Wed, Aug 23, 3:30-5:30 PM, Rinconada Library, Embarcadero Room, 1213 Newell Rd

Please join PSN for a presentation from PSN Partner-In-Action, Nadia Ghaffari, founder of TeenzTalk.org, a website that serves as a platform for teens all over the world to share their stories regarding mental health.

NEW! Beginning Sanskrit Classes

St. Marks Episcopal church, 600 Colorado Ave. Palo Alto CA 94306

Sanskrita Bharati Palo Alto is organizing Sanskrit Classes for children (K-3rd grade) and adults for the school year 2017-18. Beginners are welcome. Classes will begin Sunday, September 10th at 3pm.

For more info: <http://www.sanskritabharatieastbay.org/en/>

NEW! Palo Alto Chinese School is Accepting New Enrollment for 2017-2018

School year starts on Fri Aug 18, at JLS Middle School

Palo Alto Chinese School has been serving the community in Chinese language instructions for 54 years, and is still accepting new enrollment. Class meets every Friday 7-9 PM at JLS Middle School. There are two tracks. The Mandarin track is offered from Preschool to Grade 12, for students from heritage families. The Chinese as a Second Language (CSL) track is offered from intro, beginning, intermedia to advanced level for students with various exposure to Chinese language. Please join us for a school open house and classroom visit on 8/18, and 8/25. For more info, check <http://www.paloaltochineseschool.org/> or email contact@paloaltochineseschool.org.

NEW! Enjoy! Palo Alto Photo Contest

Now until October 31, 2017

Calling all photographers! Submit your favorite photos to the Enjoy! Palo Alto Photo Contest that showcases all the great things that Palo Alto offers and win prizes! The contest calls on photographers across Palo Alto to celebrate the community parks, open space, special events, public art, theatres and museums managed by our Community Service Department. Winners will be chosen in 11 different categories. The City of Palo Alto Community Services Department is proud to offer programs, activities and parks to meet all the needs of your family and to sustain a positive quality of life! More info at: <https://enjoypaloaltophotocontest.wishpond.com/home/>
Submit your photos at: <http://bit.ly/EnjoyContest>

NEW! Effective Discipline with Your Strong-Willed Child (2 Sessions)

Thu, Sept 7 & Sept 14, 7 - 9 PM, Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave Palo Alto 94301

Strong-willed children want to cooperate, yet they need to be approached differently than easygoing children. Rather than ending up in power struggles, break this cycle and learn how to win cooperation effectively. You can bring out the best in yourself and your children. With Cynthia Klein, BA. Fee:\$90 for 2 sessions Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/effective-discipline-with-your-strong-willed-child-elementarymiddle-2-sessions-registration-35886929773>

NEW! 13 Conversations About "13 Reasons Why"

Wed, Sept 13, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave Palo Alto 94301

The Netflix series "13 Reasons Why" is an unflinching look at suicide, teen cruelty, rape culture, and adolescent emotional turmoil and trauma. Teens and tweens are entrenched in a world of social media that may give the illusion of connectivity, but can just as easily be isolating. Although the series advocates for communication and basic human decency, it doesn't explore the role of depression and other underlying mental health concerns. Join us for an important discussion about how to talk with your teen or tween about these topics in a way that is approachable, informed, and open. With Havi Hall. Fee: \$45 Register at:<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/13-conversations-about-13-reasons-why-middlehigh-school-registration-36449330930>

NEW! Project Cornerstone's Middle School Faire

Thu, Aug 24, 9.30 - 11.30AM, 80 Saratoga Av., Santa Clara CA 95051

The Middle School Faire provides school teams and individuals with ideas for creating moments in time where youth feel valued, respected and known at school. Participants can expect to take away ideas for strengthening an asset building lifestyle with students, staff, adult volunteers and families at your middle school. We will hear from experienced panelists, then share ideas in an informal "Faire" (booths of club and activity tips). Teams of caring adults, or individuals looking for ideas to empower youth are welcome to attend! The Middle School Faire is a great opportunity to share ideas for giving youth the voice and choice they need to create safe and caring spaces at school.

Registration is now open at the following link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0945aba72d6-middle>

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!

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

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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

Jordan Middle School PTA, 750 North California Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303

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