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Jordan PTA eNews December 10, 2017

Jordan Middle School PTA Newsletter

This Week:

Site Council

Tuesday, December 12, 3:30pm, MPR

Jordan Bands Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 13, 7pm, MPR

Parent ED Event

Wednesday, December 13, 6:45pm, JLS Middle School

6th Grade Parent Network Meeting

Friday, December 15, 8:30am, Library

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JORDAN CALENDAR SUMMARY

December

- 12** Site Council
- 13** Parent ED Event
- 13** Jordan Bands Winter Concert
- 15** 6th Grade Parent Network Meeting
- 22** Winter Break Begins

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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.

January**8** School Resumes**11** PTA General Associate & Executive Meeting

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](#).

If you would like to **nominate a student** please use this form:

[Challenge Day Student Nomination Form](#)



Each Challenge Day also needs 25 adult volunteers - staff, parents, and community members. If you would like to volunteer, please use this form:

[Challenge Day Parent/Community Member Volunteer Form](#)

Invitations & permission slips for selected participants will be sent out by **December 8, 2017**.

JORDAN NEWS

NEW! 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)

NEW! 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!

It's a Wonderful Nutcracker! December 8-10 & 15-17, 2017

Blended with the storyline of the classic film "It's a Wonderful Life", Menlowe Ballet's production is set in the 1940's and boasts all the magical trimmings of a traditional Nutcracker.. You and your family will experience surprising twists on both stories and a heartfelt message that while giving and receiving 'presents' is just part of what makes the holidays wonderful. This production stresses the importance of physical presence in the lives of those who mean something to us. This season we also added a storyline illustrating how the power of connection and generosity can overcome greed and divisiveness. This is a holiday production that you and your family will want to see!

Congratulations to Jordan's own Ryan Hudacek who appears in this production!

Performances will be held at the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center on December 8-10 & 15-17. Tickets are available at www.menloweballet.org.



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 8

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-](https://www.pausd.org/explore-pausd/news/superintendents-weekly-message-%E2%80%93-december-1-2017)

[pausd/news/superintendents-weekly-message-%E2%80%93-december-1-2017](https://www.pausd.org/explore-pausd/news/superintendents-weekly-message-%E2%80%93-december-1-2017)

PAUSD's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Second Advisor Group Meeting.

Th Dec 14, 5 - 7PM, District Office 25 Churchill Avenue Palo Alto, CA Board Room (SDC)

The meeting will review district data and stakeholders will be able to give input and feedback. PAUSD LCAP Website: <https://goo.gl/EPvdGF> Parent's guide to LCAP Dashboard (district data): <https://goo.gl/p8VcuW> Spanish translation will be available

CAC Holiday Tea & Welcome Reception (Free)

Fri Dec. 15, 8:30 - 10 AM, Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Rd. Palo Alto

Parenting a child with special needs has unique challenges, so taking good care of yourself is important. Join us for a healthy and tasty breakfast buffet, wellness-related raffle prizes and a presentation by Assistant Superintendent Lana Conaway. She will speak about equity, access, wellness and safety for all students, especially those receiving Special Education services. Ms. Conaway is one of PAUSD's new leaders and oversees Special Education, Counseling, Health and Wellness in her role as Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Initiatives and Operations. Childcare will not be provided, but children are welcome. Spanish language translation will be available. Hosted by the Palo Alto Community Advisory Committee for Special Education and the Palo Alto Council of PTAs. For questions contact palaltocac@gmail.com

PTAC NEWS**NEW! Early Childhood Education: Why is it essential to our collective future?**

Mon, Dec 11, 11:30-1:00 PM, Mitchell Park Community Center, El Palo Alto Room, 3700 Middlefield Rd.

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto invites you to this year's Winter Luncheon, featuring Stanford Professor Deborah Stipek, a nationally acclaimed author and leader in Early Childhood Education. Professor Stipek is the Judy Koch Professor of Education in the Graduate School of Education and the Faculty Director of the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford. Menu: Seasonal green salad with pears and walnuts, roasted root vegetable pot pie served with a cranberry-applesauce relish. Vegetarian (gluten-free upon request), \$35.00.

RSVP on <http://bit.ly/2jnKFtz> by 12/8 or send a check by Dec 8 payable to: LWVPA, 3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto 94303. Questions? E-mail: sigridkp@yahoo.com. Co-sponsored by PTAC, Congregation Beth Am, Avenidas, Strong Start, an initiative of the Santa Clara County Office of Education, Education Committee of the LWVs of Santa Clara County, AAUW of Palo Alto, and LWVs of Los Altos-Mountain View, San Jose-Santa Clara, and South San Mateo County

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

NEW! 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! 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>

Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra's Holiday Extravaganza with Anderson & Roe

Sat, Dec 16, 3PM Smithwick Theater, 12345 El Monte Rd, Los Altos Hills
Pianists Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe join forces with PACO for high-octane performances of Bach and their original Fantasy on Bizet's Carmen. Program includes Corelli's Christmas Concerto and Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, featuring all five PACO orchestras and the Pacific Ballet Academy. Tickets can be purchased at www.pacomusic.org (\$20 for back orchestra seats and \$30 for front orchestra seats). Group rates available for 10+ tickets. For more information: info@pacomusic.org or (650)856-3848.

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

NEW! 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 BayLTC 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.

Menlowe Ballet Presents: It's a Wonderful Nutcracker!

Dec 8-10 & 15-17, Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center

Blended with the storyline of the classic film "It's a Wonderful Life", Menlowe Ballet's production is set in the 1940's and boasts all the magical trimmings of a traditional Nutcracker. This production stresses the importance of physical presence in the lives of those who mean something to us. This season we also added a storyline illustrating how the power of connection and generosity can overcome greed and divisiveness. This is a holiday production that you and your family will want to see! Information on show times and tickets are available at www.menloweballet.org

Family Movie Afternoon

Sat, Dec 9, 4-6PM, Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Rd.

Join us for a family movie afternoon the 2nd Saturday of each month. Please see website to register and for movie title.

Come watch 'Twas the Night Before Christmas!

Sun Dec 10, 1PM & 4PM; Sat Dec 9, 3PM, Woodside Performing Arts Center

Dancers Repertory Theatre presents 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, a delightful dance-theatre event that will enchant audiences of all ages. Based on the Clement C. Moore poem, the show includes Santa and his magical sleigh, prancing reindeer, dancing mice, twirling toys and a cast of over 80 children and adults. For Tickets and more information please visit our website: <http://www.twasthenight.org> or visit our Facebook page at Dancers Repertory Theatre.

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!

Stanford University Research Study (Girls, 8-12)

Researchers at Stanford University are looking for girls ages 8-12 with learning and/or behavior challenges to participate in a study exploring brain development in relation to behavior, cognition, and mood in girls. Participation involves a comprehensive cognitive and behavioral evaluation and MRI/NIRS scan (safe, non-invasive, no x-rays/radiation). Results of the evaluation are available to all participants and there is a \$100 honorarium for participation. For more information contact brain_and_behavior@stanford.edu or 650-724-2951.

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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