

JJMS PARENT EXPRESS

JJMS PTO Monthly Newsletter January 2019

jjmspto.com jjmspto@yahoo.com facebook: John Jay Middle School PTO



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- 1/9 5th/6th/7th Grade Curriculum Night 7 pm JJMS Theater:** Presentations from all subject areas and opportunities for questions regarding upcoming course selections and recommendations for next school year. *Spirit Wear will be available for purchase!
- 1/10 PTO 8th Grade Conversations 9:30 am JJMS Theater:** An opportunity for 8th grade parents to ask questions of JJHS and JJMS staff before students begin to sign up for classes in early February.
- 1/17 BOE Meeting 7:30 pm:** Topic of discussion: "KLSD Start/End Times"! Attend this important meeting to hear new information from the district and share your feedback on this *hot topic*!
- 1/21 No School:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 1/23 8th Grade Curriculum Discussions at JJHS 7pm**
- 1/28 JJMS Band Concert:** *Spirit Wear will be available for purchase.
- 2/4 JJMS PTO Parent/Faculty Discussion Series "Mindful in the Middle" 7pm:** This year's discussion will center around the theme of "Empathy". Stay tuned for more details.
- 2/21 6th Grade Game Show Night at JJMS:** More details to come.
- 2/22 7th Grade Rec-n-Roll:** More details to come.

WHAT'S NEW AT JJMS?

Welcome Dr. Harry Laub! Please join us in welcoming Dr. Laub, our new interim assistant principal, to the JJMS community.

JJMS SPIRIT WEAR: Our new JJMS Spirit Wear has arrived! Thanks to the hard work of our Spirit Wear coordinator, Michelle Gioffre, we are fully stocked with new inventory and more is on the way. Please visit our website www.jjmspto.com to check out our new styles and ordering information. If you want to shop in person, Spirit Wear will be available for purchase at the 5/6/7th grade curriculum night on 1/9 and at the JJMS Band Concert on 1/28 from 6:30-9:00 pm. Show your JJMS pride and purchase your new Spirit Wear today!!

YEARBOOKS: Yearbooks are still available for purchase. Please visit JJMSPTO.com for ordering information.

JJMS PTO Garden: We started the home base plant project in December. Home bases were given the choice of three plants to start from seed: marigold, coleus, or parsley. They chose one, based on its light requirements, to plant. In early December, our garden coordinator, Margi, met with home base leaders to plant seeds and discuss what they needed to do to ensure that their plants thrived. Right before winter break, students brought their plants to a central location so that the plants could be watered over vacation. Seeds were added to the pots and watered. Marigold seeds had germinated, but no coleus or parsley had as they take longer.

In addition to the home base project, students in the environmental club made labels for the plants in the home and careers kitchen. The plants in the home and careers kitchen are used during cooking lessons.

Library Media Center: Got LEGOs? The John Jay Middle School Library is looking for donations of LEGO blocks and base plates. We are interested in creating an interactive LEGO wall for students to collaborate on when they visit the library. Donations can be placed in Ziploc baggies or in boxes and dropped off in the library any morning. Thank you for your support in this endeavor!

PARENTS

Library Volunteers needed: Please volunteer an hour or two each week or every other week to help shelve books and help our new librarian, Jennifer Ussted with special projects. Please email kathybarbermartin@gmail.com if you are interested.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Volunteering is a great way to still feel connected to your child's school even as they become more independent learners. Our PTO sponsored programs can only happen with your involvement! No matter how much or how little time you have to give, all your efforts are GREATLY appreciated. Please contact Sarah

Brummel or Kristin Condon, JJMS PTO Co-Presidents at jjmspto@yahoo.com with any questions you may have.

If you have not done so already, please renew your volunteer application!

The KLS D requires that all families renew their volunteer application ANNUALLY in order to volunteer in any of the schools within our district. Please click the link below to renew yours...it only takes a minute!

<http://www.klschools.org/volunteer>

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

I would like to inform you that we have hired Dr. Harry Laub as the Interim Assistant Principal. He will begin with us Monday, January 7, 2019. Dr. Laub has been hired to fill in for Ms. Brooks as she continues her maternity leave. I am glad to report that she and the baby are both doing wonderfully. She is expected to return on July 1st.

Dr. Laub is an experienced educator, having served as a teacher, assistant principal, curriculum director, principal and director of a school. He retired in June, 2018. During the interview process he impressed us with his dedication to children and his knowledge of middle schoolers, their growth and development and how they learn best. Dr. Laub will be with us until Ms. Brooks returns. He may be reached through our main office at 914-763-7500. I am thrilled to welcome him to our staff.

Please follow us on Twitter @MrSwiatowicz and @MSAPBrooks and on Instagram @MrSwiatowicz for frequent updates.

SUPPORT THE JJMS PTO

Non-Event Fundraiser: In lieu of hosting holiday fairs, bake sales, catalog fundraisers or charging dues, the JJMS PTO graciously accepts donations from our families. All donations and funds raised are put toward the many programs sponsored by the PTO throughout the school year. No donation is too big or too small, we are grateful for your generous support. Donations can be made online anytime or at our PTO sponsored events. All donations are tax deductible.

John Jay Spirit Wear- Support JJMS by purchasing Spirit Wear. Please visit our website for available items and ordering information.

Directories and Bus notes: The JJMS PTO Student Directory and Dismissal Pads (bus notes) are available to purchase anytime. Purchases can be made at PTO events or on our website.

Amazon / JJMS PTO Partnership - If you shop on Amazon the JJMS PTO can earn a percentage of your order total! This is a great, easy way to support student activities. In order for JJMS PTO to receive credit for your Amazon purchases you must click on the Amazon logo on our website or use Amazon Smile.

DeCicco's/JJMS- Our school earns \$\$ when you shop at DeCicco's. When checking out at the Katonah store, please tell the cashier to "Give my points to JJMS!" We earn a percentage of your purchase. Thank you for your support!

We accept credit cards through our PayPal account to make online ordering easy!
We also accept cash and checks.

GRATITUDE

Thank you to *Margi Corsello* for her hard work in maintaining the JJMS garden.

Thank you to the JJMS families for their continued support of the PTO.

COMMUNITY

Introducing "KLDTA Delivers"!

The KL teachers association, in an effort to focus on their purpose of looking out for and supporting the welfare of the greater community has formed a community outreach committee. As part of this committee they have established *KLDTA Delivers*, whose mission is to provide meals, gift cards, etc to KL families experiencing difficult times. If you are aware of a family who may benefit from this program, please contact Mark Grossman at mgrossman@klschools.org for more information. Thank you KLDTA for this kind and generous community support initiative!

SEPTO FUNDRAISER

Save the date for SEPTO's annual Wine & Cheese fundraiser! This event will be held on January 26th at the Lake Katonah Clubhouse. For more information please visit KLSEPTO.org. This fundraiser is open to all KLS D families.