

JJMS PARENT EXPRESS

JJMS PTO Monthly Newsletter February 2019

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



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- 2/4 **JJMS PTO Parent/Faculty Discussion Series “Mindful in the Middle” 7pm:** This year’s discussion will center around the theme of “Empathy”. See below for more details.
- 2/11 **KLSD Superintendent’s Community Meeting to discuss Start/End Times 7pm JJMS**
- 2/12 **Special PTO meeting 9:30am JJMS ACR: Topic KLSD start/end times**
- 2/21 **6th Grade Game Show Night at JJMS:** See details below.
- 2/22 **7th Grade Rec-n-Roll:** See details below.
- 2/25 **KLSD Superintendent’s Community Meeting to discuss Start/End Times 7pm JJMS**

WHAT’S NEW AT JJMS?

Parent Faculty Discussion Series: Monday, February 4th 7pm, JJMS Library. This discussion will focus on the importance of helping our students strengthen their ability to empathize with others. We decided to explore the book *Unselfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World*, by Michelle Borba, as our anchor resource. It is filled with practical strategies for helping kids of all ages develop their ability to empathize with others. You do not need to read the book to attend to discussion! We look forward to exploring new topics this year and building an even stronger sense of community among parents, teachers, and administrators!

6th Grade Game Show Night: Mark your calendars for the JJMS PTO 6th Grade Game Show night, Thursday, February 21st 7-8:30pm in the JJMS Dining Room. A gameshow host will be at JJMS to entertain our 6th graders at this high energy event including Trivia, Name That Song, Tug of War & other Physical challenges. Prizes will be awarded for attendance and participation. Complimentary light refreshments will be provided. \$5 suggested donation per student (Tickets will be sold during lunch on 2/20 & 2/21 and will also be available at the door). Please click here to donate and/or volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C45A8AA28A7FE3-6thgrade1>

7th Grade Rec & Roll: This year's 7th grade Rec & Roll will take place on Friday, February 22nd from 7-9:00pm in the JJMS New Gym. This event will feature a Gaga Pit, DJ, photo booth, air hockey, foosball, basketball and new this year...Sumo Wrestling! Prizes will be awarded for attendance and participation. Complimentary light refreshments will be provided. \$5 suggested donation per student (Tickets will be sold during lunch on 2/20, 2/21 & 2/22 and will also be available at the door). Please click here to donate and/or volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C45A8AA28A7FE3-7thgrade1>

8th Grade Dance Party: NEW THIS YEAR!! Please save the date. This year the PTO will be sponsoring an 8th grade Dance Party. This casual night out with friends will be held on Friday, March 15th from 7-9:00pm in the JJMS Dining Room. Stay tuned for more details.

BOX TOPS: Please send in your Box Tops! Homebases are collecting Box Tops to raise money to support JJMS. Our next collection will be February 28th, so send in your box tops now!!

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

PARENTS

8th grade Parents: Don't forget to send in payment and permission slips for the 8th grade boat trip. Please visit JJMSPTO.com to download forms and for payment options.

Volunteer for 6th Grade Game Show Night: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C45A8AA28A7FE3-6thgrade1>

Volunteer for 7th Grade Rec & Roll: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C45A8AA28A7FE3-7thgrade1>

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 Useted with special projects. Please email kathybarbermartin@gmail.com if you are interested.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

The JJMS Library has been updated to include a collaborative learning space. Book shelves have been rearranged to accommodate a new area where classes can come to work and have access to a large screen Smart TV and iPads. The feedback from faculty and students has been positive!

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 the JJMS families for their continued support of the PTO.

COMMUNITY

The Bedford/Lewisboro/Pound Ridge Drug Abuse Prevention Council and The Katonah-Lewisboro School District present:

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Understanding the Signs of Teen Drug or Alcohol Use

Tuesday, March 5th
John Jay High School Auditorium
7:00pm-8:00pm

- Know what to look for in your child's bedroom that may indicate they are experimenting with drugs and alcohol
- Learn how to recognize the various vaping devices teens are using
- Understand how to talk to your teen

Presenters: Kathryn Ferrara, DAPC Coordinator, Kiri Ryan, LCSW Social Worker, and School Resource Officer Frank Secret

Junior League of Northern Westchester

On **Tuesday, March 19**, the Junior League of Northern Westchester is hosting a **free** workshop for parents: ***Protecting Children in a Hyper Digital Age***.

Speaker, **Liz Repking**, a cyber safety expert (and mother herself!) will explore how today's children are interacting online, the positive and negative implications of technology, and how we can parent with more understanding about the culture of technology for our families.

In the course of this conversation, Liz will discuss (among other things):

- Dangers children are susceptible to online
- Teens and sexting
- Popular apps and how to use them safely
- Safety settings and restrictions for phones and computers
- Cell phone monitoring
- Gaming issues and concerns
- Building health technology in the home

The link to register for the event is: jlnwcybersafety.eventbrite.com

"KLDTA Delivers"!

The newly formed KLDTA (Katonah-Lewisboro Teachers Association) Outreach Committee has organized a meal preparation and delivery program called KLDTA Delivers. The goal of this program is to provide meals to families within our entire school community (staff, support staff, families of KLSD students) that may be facing hard times. Many KLDTA members have volunteered to prepare meals, purchase gift cards, and/or deliver meals to families in the midst of difficulties. If you experience or become aware of a need in the KLSD community, please contact one of our meal coordinators (listed below) and they will provide you with information about the various meal and delivery options available.

KLDTA Delivers Meal Coordinators:

Susan Hirsch (Elementary Coordinator): shirsch411@gmail.com

Kathy O'Neil (Middle School Coordinator): dolqueen13@yahoo.com

Anna Loeb (High School Coordinator): aceloeb@optonline.net