

Panther Tracks



Oct 2013

The newsletter for Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School

Volume 2013-2014 Issue 1

INSIDE

Principal's Column	1
PTA President's Column.	3
JLS Students Read 6000+ books	3
Counselor's Corner	4 - 5
Shout Out to Social Studies.	6
Help Wanted : Many Faces of JLS	6
Help Wanted : Donate to PiE Early	7
Building Service Learning at JLS.	8
JLS Science Fair	9
Announcement:JLS Fall play: "The Hobbit".	10
Announcement : Yearbook Photos.	10
Thank you.	11
Calendar.	12

Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School
480 East Meadow Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Website: www.jls.pausd.org
Phone: 650-856-5188

Principal:
Sharon Ofek

Assistant Principals:
**Eston Melton &
Barbara Harris**

PTA President:
John Markevitch

VP Communications:
Barbara Best

Editor:
Smita Kolhatkar

Layout:
Maya Venkatraman

Distribution:
Heike Enders

Principal's Column

Dear JLS Families,



We have had a wonderful start to the new school year! Whether it has been through connections of classmates old and new, students taking advantage of leadership opportunities, engagement in an evolving classroom curriculum, exploring new interests, or participating in extracurricular activities, our community has found ways to capitalize on our opportunities to support all of our students as they grow and develop. It has been exciting to watch all of this in action and I thank you for the opportunity to be a part of such a thriving community. I enjoy being a part of a community that values all the innocence that childhood has to offer, helps kids to learn from their choices, and supports an inclusive approach to building community.

In an effort to ease the transitions from grade to grade, the JLS staff successfully implemented activities at each grade level. Sixth graders enjoyed the 7th annual Panther Camp orientation, 7th graders participated in Team Day welcome activities organized by teams, and 8th graders were exposed to teacher-led presentations about common expectations for the year. All in all, our students participated in workshops ranging from fixed versus growth mindsets to online resources to digital citizenship to ability awareness. Creating common experiences that support our values and build a collective foundation for our work together are at the heart of these efforts.

Continued on page 2

Jane Lathrop Stanford (JLS) is a diverse learning community. We seek to provide a safe, creative, and inclusive learning environment. We respect and embrace the uniqueness of every individual. We strive for academic excellence, individual responsibility, and lifelong learning. Through compassion, connection, courtesy, complimenting, and community, we support the intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth of our children.

The mention of any business, service, or organization in this newsletter does not imply an endorsement by JLS Middle School, JLS PTA, or PAUSD.

Submissions to: panthertracks@gmail.com
Next deadline: **November 21**

Continued from page 1

The slow pace of summer certainly gave way to the energetic hustle and bustle of school and all that comes with a promising new year. I would like to take a moment to introduce and welcome the following new staff members to JLS:

Erik Bowman	Art
Kim Cunningham	Special Education
Laura Easton	6th Grade – Science/Social Studies
Sonia Gomez	Guidance Counselor
Luis Manuel Gonzalez	Spanish
Julie Griffin	Library (Fridays)
Barbara Harris	Assistant Principal
Michelle Junod	Special Education
Eston Melton	Assistant Principal
Robin Young (Ames)	Science

The JLS staff is committed to continuous improvement and maintaining an open mind-set. This year we resume our emphasis on providing a balanced education that allows our students to engage in and develop a love of learning, explore who they are, and participate in a community of thriving adolescents.

We continue to highlight the Developmental Assets model for building positive character traits in our students. Many agencies in Palo Alto, including the City of Palo Alto, have committed to emphasizing these assets as well. At JLS, we have been underscoring five assets that we feel we can positively impact. These assets dovetail nicely with our existing work on connectedness, building resilience, and providing an engaging learning experience. The assets are:

Other Adult Relationships – receives support from three or more non-parent adults

Caring School Climate – school provides a caring, encouraging environment

High Expectations – both parents and teachers encourage child to do well

Reading for Pleasure – read for pleasure three or more hours per week

Cultural Competence – has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds

Currently JLS is hosting a class for parents on Friday mornings about the developmental

assets. I encourage you to explore the assets, join the class, and/or reach out to parents who are already familiar with the program.

Additionally, we are making a concerted effort to improve communication within our school community. All staff members are using Schoology as their main vehicle of communication to parents and students when it comes to daily activities in class. Infinite Campus is the district's student information system and is for nuts & bolts things like the annual data update, emergency cards, report cards, attendance, etc. In addition we have an awesome website that we are always working on making more robust. Please be sure to check the school calendar, available subscriptions, and information available under the "For Parents" tab.

Through teamwork, open communication, and dedication to continuous improvement, our school will continue to be successful in producing happy, thriving children. I am proud to work at JLS and I look forward to sharing in another year of experiences with you!

Sincerely,
Sharon Ofek, Principal 

PTA President's Column

It's hard to believe it's already autumn as we send out our first Panther Tracks of the year. The mornings are cool, but the sun blazes in the afternoon. It's what I call jacket-losing weather; our kids are hard pressed to remember that there was a sweatshirt needed just a few hours earlier on their bike ride to school.

The children have now been in school for nearly two months, and with the help of a great number of volunteers we've already experienced Jump Start Day and our amazing Back-To-School dinner and ribbon cutting. Thank you so much to all the volunteers who were able to donate their time and energy!

As our children experience the greater independence that comes with middle school it can be hard to maintain links with their school community. Getting involved with the JLS PTA is a great way to build bridges into that community, getting to know other families and connecting. There are still many supporting positions open, from helping out at one-time events like the Many Faces of JLS dinner and the 8th grade Exit Interviews, to continuing roles with Parent Education and Staff Appreciation.

Please check for opportunities on the JLS PTA web site (I know you have it bookmarked already, but you can find it at <http://pta.palo-alto.ca.us/jls/?q=membership>) or get in contact with any of the JLS PTA Board members.

PTA's role at JLS is to support and encourage children, parents, and staff. We sponsor parent education events, provide financial support to teachers and host staff appreciation activities, purchase books for the library and support the science fair, host social events for the whole community, donate technology, provide departmental support, and do many, many more things. Our budget shows the details (<http://pta.palo-alto.ca.us/jls/documents/JLSBudget2013-2014.htm>.) All of this comes from the support of families who join PTA and donate their time and energy. I'd like to encourage you to join if you haven't yet.

I'd like to wish you and your family a wonderful year at JLS, full of fun, learning, and amazing experiences.

John Markevitch
JLS PTA President

JLS Students Read Over 6000 Books Last Summer

JLS students voluntarily read over 6000 books this summer! That is an amazing number of books. Over 500 students qualified for the Summer Reading Celebrations held September 11th and 18th during WIP. Students celebrated with music, ice cream and drinks and got to select a new book to recognize their choice to read books during the summer vacation.

Our eighth graders read the most books again this year with 2085 good reads and seventh grade was second with 2034. Sixth graders were close with 1815.

The big readers from eighth were Arthur Yang, Kevin Fang, Alana Rufer, Reetu Joshi and Crystal Guo. The big readers from seventh were Madison Wiseman, Micaela Wong, Maya Star-Lack, Grace Lam and Sophie Chiang. And from sixth grade, they were Coann Lin, Ashley Poon and Amelia Mao. The top classes of readers were Ms. Nygaard's 5th period, Ms. Coluzzi's 5th period and Ms. Constant's 1st period. Congratulations.

Thank you to our wonderful PTA for supplying the food and helping with the celebrations. The books were bought with the funds from our yearly book fairs. Books in the hands of our students!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Meet Linda Howard

Welcome back to another school year. My name is Linda Howard and once again I have the opportunity to be working as a guidance counselor at JLS. Last spring I guided a group of eighth graders through three years of middle school, and now I am happy to be working with a new class of eager sixth graders. At JLS we have a "looping" system where the guidance counselors stay with the same grade level all three years. This affords the counselors a chance to get to know our students and families.

This is my seventeenth year at JLS. For the first 5 years, I worked in the sixth grade as a resource specialist. Before coming to Palo Alto, I taught and worked as a guidance counselor in Texas for 13 years. I hold credentials in Multi-subject area, Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services (school counseling). I hold a Master's degree in Education in school counseling.

When children contact the counselor about a problem, they are taking the first step toward advocating for themselves. Encourage your child to contact me if they have a concern or question. Self-advocacy empowers students to become their own problems solvers.

Children are being exposed to more information and are being required to expand their knowledge at a much faster rate than in past generations. One of the most important skills a person can learn is how to communicate with others in a positive and constructive manner. My passion and interest lie in working with individuals or small groups of students helping them to develop their abilities in interpersonal relationships, and in making wise decisions.

Contact me at 856-5175 or e-mail me at lhoward@pausd.org if you have questions.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Meet Arvind Arya

Hi my name is Arvind Arya. I am the 7th grade counselor at JLS and am excited and thrilled to have this opportunity to work with you and your student for the next two years. Just so you know a little bit more about me, I am starting my overall 14th year working as a guidance counselor. I hail from Southern California, went to high school in Carlsbad and graduated from UC Riverside with my B.A. in Sociology. I attended Azusa Pacific University, and earned my M.A. in Education along with a credential in school counseling.

My first experience counseling was at La Cañada High School, in La Cañada, California. La Cañada is a little community that is just outside of Pasadena. I had a wonderful experience counseling with all grade-levels during my tenure there. In the summer of 2006, I got married and relocated to the Bay Area. I worked at Milpitas High School for a year, but decided it was time for a change from the high school level. I love working in middle school! It is very different from high school, but I feel that children are much more "moldable" and open to learning so many new things in life. I enjoy their energy and enthusiasm. JLS is a great school and I am proud to work here. I am starting my 7th year working at JLS. What is nice about the JLS counseling program is that the counselors "loop" with their grade, which means the counselors keep their class for the next three years, until they finish the 8th grade. This is a great way of getting to know the kids and making relationships with them!

I have two little children. My daughter Pria is 6 years old and attends Hoover Elementary, and my son Aarav is 3. In my spare time I like to watch soccer, and basketball. I'm a huge fan of European Football! I support Arsenal FC and the LA Lakers! I also enjoy traveling to new places and am known as the "King of the Grill" in my home as I enjoy grilling on weekends.

I have a passion about working with students to help them overcome any obstacles that they may face. This can be academic, personal/social or just about anything. Setting goals and working towards them is an important life-long skill for all our kids. Seeing kids grow into responsible, motivated students is very rewarding to me. Middle school kids are a lot of fun!

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at 650-856-5129. My email is aarya@pausd.org. You can also check out the Guidance Department website for more information. This can be found on the JLS homepage, under the "Parents" tab.

All the best this year and I am looking forward to working with you.

Arvind Arya

7th Grade Counselor

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Meet Sonia Gomez

Hello! My name is Sonia Gomez. I am the new 8th grade counselor and I am very excited to begin this new journey at JLS. I'm truly enjoying getting to know the JLS community. Let me share with you a bit about myself.

I grew up in Half Moon Bay and relocated to San Jose to attend San Jose State University, where I earned a B.A. in Social Science. I continued my studies at SJSU to earn an M.A. in Counseling Education and a Pupil Personnel Services credential (PPS) in school counseling.

I have been a counselor for 12 years working with varies age groups. Most of my counseling experience has been in San Jose schools. My passion for working with students has allowed me to be a middle school, high school, and community college counselor.

Before coming to JLS, I worked at Fred Finch Youth Center in collaboration with San Mateo County Mental Health Services as a therapeutic behavioral coach for clients ages 4-21. I feel blessed to have been able to see the "bigger picture" as to the needs of students by my work at different school settings and providing behavioral intervention services at home and school.

I have two wonderful daughters ages 2 yrs. and 3 months and a great husband who have made this new chapter in my life easier. In my spare time I enjoy playing soccer and spending time in Half Moon Bay with my extended family.

My passion for counseling grows as I meet new students and help them overcome any obstacles that may get in their way of achieving their (academic & personal) goals and reach full potential. I believe middle school is a great opportunity for students to build their character, values, and learn skills that they can apply in their daily endeavors.

Thank you, JLS community (students, teachers, administrators, and parents) for making me feel welcomed to JLS and PAUSD.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me (650) 856-5174 or email me at sgomez@pausd.org.

JLS SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Shout Out to Social Studies

Sixth grade Social Studies students have been extremely busy for the past month. In addition to basic geography skills of map reading and creating, students are learning about the field of Archaeology. Some are acting like an archaeologist by uncovering artifacts while others are making observations on mysterious artifacts. Additionally, most are beginning their library research skills as archaeologists as they uncover a few facts about major archaeological discoveries like The Parthenon, Great Wall of China, and Mohenjo-Daro. In the upcoming weeks, students will begin to study early humans, the Agricultural Revolution, and culture.

The 7th graders' year started off with a simulation of a cross-cultural experience, from which students came up with ways to respect cultural diversity and eliminate stereotypes. Currently, we are either finishing a unit on Rome or starting our Islam Unit, talking about the founding and expansion of Islam during the Middle Ages. We will be having a guest speaker from PAUSD's Art Education Department come to talk about Islamic Art. From there we will then be learning about the Empires of West Africa: Ghana, Mali, and Songhai.

The 8th graders began with a review of the American Revolutionary War, focusing on the foundations of political thought in America. The students learned about Hobbes, Locke, Voltaire, Montesquieu, and Beccaria's Enlightenment philosophies on natural rights, human nature, systems of government, free speech, and punishment. The students then read many excerpts from primary source documents, such as Thomas Paine's Common Sense, the Declaration of Independence, and the U.S. Constitution and connected the ideas expressed by the Americans back to Enlightenment thinkers. Next, the classes will delve deep into how the Constitution was created, by completing research and participating in a Constitutional Convention Simulation.

No matter what grade the students are in, it is going to be a great Social Studies season!

HELP WANTED

Many Faces of JLS Committee Needed

Calling all JLS Families who love food...

We need a team of volunteers to help organize one of our most highly anticipated events at JLS, the Many Faces of JLS International Potluck!

The Many Faces of JLS is our biggest event, put on by all JLS families, who come together to share food representing the diverse cultures and ethnicities of our JLS community. The JLS PTA is seeking a committee of volunteers to help organize this event and coordinate other parent volunteers. The Many Faces International Potluck is planned for January 15th from 6pm-8pm, with set up from 1-5pm and clean up from 8-8:30pm. If you can help serve as a co-chair or have any questions about this beloved event, please contact Laura Mifflin at Lmifflin@aol.com or 855-9860.

Without a team of co-chairs to help the PTA organize this event, the Many Faces of JLS is in danger of cancellation this year.

HELP WANTED

Donate Early to PiE !

During the first few weeks of school, you received a flurry of messages, forms and letters covering every aspect of life at JLS. Buried among those papers is a letter asking you to donate to Palo Alto Partners in Education, known as PiE. PiE is the only non-profit foundation dedicated to raising funds that impact the educational excellence of Palo Alto schools. Donations to PiE surround our students with opportunities for support and enrichment that would otherwise be missing.

During the 2013-2014 year PiE will allocate over \$340,000 to JLS based on your donations made in 2012-2013! To see your PiE dollars at work, take a peek inside your child's classroom. You'll find reduced class sizes, new electives such as marine biology and public speaking and broadcast journalism. PiE pays for technology related staffing including technology lead Karin Forsell who manages the technology plan to maximize teaching and learning. PiE also makes it possible for JLS to have one dedicated counselor for each grade, and funds student activities such as Panther Camp and the new 7th grade transitional activities.

Palo Alto is not alone in asking for additional support for their schools. PiE's suggested donation is \$800 per student. This amount is far lower than is asked by the communities surrounding ours, such as Menlo Park (\$1,000) Los Altos (\$1,200) and Hillsborough (\$1,500). Every dollar counts, and we welcome all gifts. If you give early, you can take advantage of the PiE Back to School Challenge Grant put up by generous PiE supporters. Thank you for helping us achieve our matching grant goal of \$300,000 by August 31st, 2013.

In 2012-2013 over 4,600 families and community members together gave a record \$4.9 million to our PAUSD schools through PiE. Moving forward, we need all the help we can get from our parents to reach this year's PiE fundraising goal of \$5 million.

Please help us keep our JLS programs and staff by generously donating to PiE this year. Your donations make a difference at our school and all students benefit. To donate, or for more information, please visit www.papie.org or call 650-329-3990.

JLS PiE Co-Chairs

Jennifer Mutz, Pam Markevitch, Sriram Sankar, Suman Gupta, Tais Schmitt, Yoshie Roake

Building Service Learning at JLS: Update

The JLS PTA continues to work to support service-learning initiatives on campus and in the community this year. If you would like to help plan this year's PTA Youth Community Service Day, contact meganfogarty@gmail.com.

Here are ways that parents, students and staff can get involved:

Contact Youth Community Service (YCS) for more information: 650-858-8019 or www.youthcommunityservice.org.

For Parents and the Whole Family:

October 26, Saturday: Make a Difference Day, 9:30am-3:00pm. A National Day of Service. Join adult and youth volunteers to enhance the campus and classrooms of Ravenswood district K-8 schools in East Palo Alto.

January 20, Monday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Event, 11:00am-3:00pm. Lytton Plaza, downtown Palo Alto, YCS in partnership with City of Palo Alto. Your whole family is invited to join us to learn about the legacy for peace and service of Martin Luther King, and to share your dreams. Service activities on the Plaza for all ages.

April 12, Saturday: YCS Family Service Day, 9:30am-3:00pm. Watch for news about this community-wide service day with YCS and partner organizations for adult and youth volunteers. In past years we have joined others to paint school buildings, and lead campus beautification projects in East Palo. A National Day of Service.

For Students:

Want to get involved in community service? Join the Youth Community Service (YCS) Club at JLS that meets Wednesdays during lunchtime in room 320. Teacher-sponsor is Ms. Blackford and YCS Middle School program coordinator is Jone Saukitoga.

Leadership Opportunities

Youth Community Service is accepting applications for the YCS Middle School Fellows Leadership Program, in partnership with the City of Palo Alto. Last year the project was known as SWAG – Students with a Gateway – in recognition of the gateway role that “service to others” plays as one of the developmental assets. Watch the youth community service website to download a Fellows application.

February 12, Wednesday: Trash Clean-up Day JLS. Student-led campus beautification day.

For Teachers:

The PTA is available to help you plan a service-learning project small or large in your classroom or with your JLS club. If we can help with legwork, please email Megan Swezey Fogarty, meganfogarty@gmail.com. Please apply to the budget committee for grants for materials needed to make your service-learning successful.

YCS provides direct support for educators interested in applying service-learning strategies. Support includes research for project ideas tied to curriculum standards and ideas for reflection activities that help transform experiences into learning. YCS has a new partnership with NASA/Ames and Lockheed-Martin to share learning materials related to STEM topics: science, technology, engineering and math, to help students learn ways to solve real-world problems. Contact Leif Erickson at YCS 650-858-8061.

JLS Science Fair

Wednesday and Thursday, January 22nd and 23rd, 2014 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM

All 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are invited to participate! This event provides an opportunity for students to share their individual or group science and engineering projects with our school community. All students conduct a Home Science Experiment (HSE) as part of their science classes.

Last year's fair featured over 400 projects and over 100 volunteer interviewers, and filled the Cafetorium to capacity. Students are interviewed (by JLS parent volunteers) in a noncompetitive, informal setting. There are four sessions over two days. Sixth graders will man their posters and be interviewed during one of the early sessions (6:30-7:45pm) and 7th and 8th graders will man their posters during one of the late sessions (8-9pm). You are, of course, welcome to attend all of the sessions.

Students interested in a more structured, competitive event are encouraged to enter their projects in the Santa Clara County Synopsys Science and Engineering Fair. If your child might be interested, Synopsys Science Fair is a little more selective in the type of project allowed. This is a list of projects unlikely to be accepted by them: <http://www.science-fair.org/pdfs/Discouraged-projects.pdf>. More information about their science fair and science fairs in general can be found on their website: www.science-fair.org/.

If you're at all interested in supporting science and engineering at our school, please consider volunteering to help with this event. Previous years' interviewers have always enjoyed talking to our students and were amazed at the wide variety of projects on display, and we welcome non-scientist/engineer judges to join the fun! The students really appreciate having a non-parent or teacher spend the time to hear about their projects.

Thank you in advance for your help, and please contact us if you have any questions or need more information.

Jeannette Cheng, Marjorie Sayer, and Stephanie Youngquist
Science Fair Co-Chairs

yoyo2000@Pacbell.net

JLS Walks & Rolls on Wednesday, October 9 For Safer Streets, Healthier Bodies, And A Greener Planet

On Wednesday, October 9, JLS will join students around the world who are choosing alternatives to solo driving by walking, biking, riding the bus, and carpooling to celebrate International Walk to School Day. Students will be greeted by the Panther mascot and receive stickers for participating. Find more information on Palo Alto PTA Safe Routes to School programs and view the JLS Walk and Roll Map at www.cityofpaloalto.org/saferoutes.

ANNOUNCEMENT
JLS Stage Production presents

The Hobbit

an adventure play based on J.R.R. Tolkien's novel

November 14, 7:00pm and November 15, 7:00pm

In the JLS Cafetorium;

Running time 1 hour

Tickets go on sale (at JLS) on November 4.

\$5 for adults, \$3 for children in 8th grade & younger

Come see your student friends perform and produce the JLS fall play, "The Hobbit"! The story is a suspenseful, fast-moving journey through the sometimes dark, sometimes charming, always compelling world of Middle Earth. Bilbo Baggins is a comfortably well-off hobbit with a love for rousing adventure stories. Real adventures, however, are definitely not his cup of tea. So when Gandalf the wizard knocks at Bilbo's door, bringing with him 13 ragged-looking dwarfs and a contract to recover a lost treasure, Bilbo could not be less interested - at first. But Bilbo's love of a good story gets the better of him, and before he knows it, he is off on a perilous quest over mountain, under hill, through caves and forest and slimy dark places; and there's a dragon!

ANNOUNCEMENT

FREE Bridge Lessons--Sign Ups Now

The JLS PTA, in collaboration with Silicon Valley Youth Bridge volunteer instructors, is offering JLS students the opportunity to learn to play Bridge in an after school enrichment class open to all. Here are the details:

What: Learn to Play Bridge (the card game)
When: Thursdays, Oct. 17th - Dec. 19th, 3:15-4:30pm
Where: JLS Middle School, Rm. 820
Who: All JLS students welcome!
Cost: FREE, but you must sign up.
See Mrs. Scherer in the Guidance office.

Info: email Nancy Smith, nssmith@earthlink.net with questions

For more information about the Silicon Valley Youth Bridge organization, please visit <http://www.siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org/programs/programs.html>, and for information about their parent organization, Center for Bridge Education, visit <http://www.center4bridge.org/Welcome.html>

ANNOUNCEMENT

Yearbook Photos

Dear Parents,

In an effort to access as many photos as possible for our yearbook, we can now use Josten's secure Image Share website: www.images.jostens.com.

You can access it by using the login and password in this link: <http://pta.palo-alto.ca.us/jls/documents/JLSyearbookflyer.pdf>. This website replaces the Replay It app that some of you have been using to share photos already. The site allows anyone in the JLS community to upload pictures and share them with the Yearbook staff, however it does not allow anyone to view the uploaded pictures.

Please feel free to share as many photos as possible, especially photos of events that our staff is not able to attend. You can upload 10 photos at a time and they must be in a jpg or tiff format. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Student Directory

Most families should have received one copy of the student directory by now. Students whose 2nd period teacher's last name starts with M through Z will get their directory by Oct 17. Check your child's backpack for a red cover. Many thanks to Annie Bedichek for her tireless work to get the directory out early this year! Annie would like to thank the many volunteers who helped edit, sort, and distribute the directories to the classrooms.

The information in the directory came from Infinite Campus. If your information is incomplete or incorrect, please log in to Infinite Campus and make corrections. If you are not in the directory, that is because you checked the box - 'Do not include in the directory', when you completed your Infinite Campus data page. If you would like to be in next year's directory, you will need to uncheck this box in Infinite Campus.

Many thanks to the JLS PTA for providing the directories to all families at no charge.

THANK YOU

JLS Back to School Dinner/New Building Opening Ceremony Thank You

What do you get when you combine a new building on campus, a dinner catered by local restaurants, district officials, student tour guides, and fabulous student musicians? The JLS Back to School Dinner/New Building Opening Ceremony 2013!

A wonderful committee comprised of ourselves and Teresa Bell-Stephens, Mary Catherine Williams, Jeannie Llewellyn, Carol Leonard, and Olivia Viveros worked hard starting last summer to come up with all of the never-ending details to re-imagine the traditional JLS Back to School Dinner.

This year we asked three local restaurants (Sancho's Tacqueria, Indochine, and Figo) as well as Esther's German Bakery to cater an international dinner that reflected the international nature of our community. We then added in student tour guides and student musicians to involve our wonderful students. Finally, we invited district officials to show off JLS which included Board of Education directors, district building supervisors, and our superintendent and assistant superintendents. WOW!

In the end, we had reservations for 1038, a record! With so many attendees, we could not have managed without over 30 parent volunteers. You know who you are, and please know that your help made the event a huge success.

Special thank yous to the PTA executive board (especially Nancy Smith, John Markevitch, and Heike Enders who answered countless questions and did a lot of work on the side), Sharon Ofek who attended our planning meetings on the weekend (!), Angelina Fitzhugh who coordinated all of the student musicians, and Judy Lukensmeyer who helped us with planning details starting last summer and then stayed the entire evening until the bitter end!

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended this event and had flexibility and patience as we worked through the minor glitches and wrinkles that an event of this magnitude entails. We very much appreciated your understanding that we are not professional party planners!

With gratitude,
Kristen Lee (Austin Bontemps, grade 7), and
Jonake Bose (Zakir Ahmad, grade 7), Co-Chairs

THANK YOU

We are very grateful to all of the parents who give their time and energy to volunteer at JLS. If you are someone who has already helped out with one of our Back to School events or programs, from First Day Form Sorting to Summer Reading Parties, and everything in between, please know how much we appreciate your generous donation of time and energy. YOU help make our school a more enriching place for our staff to teach and our students to learn, and a welcoming environment in which parents can get to know each other.

In this space, we also warmly acknowledge those parents who took it upon themselves to organize our early fall semester events. Thank you ALL for your commitment to our school!

This year's organizers:

Barbara Best and Danielle Laursen
Panther Camp Volunteer Coordinators

Ivan Hom and Nancy Smith
Latte Cart Brunches

Kristen Lee, Jonake Bose, Carol Leonard, Olivia Viveros, Jeannie Llewellyn, Mary Catherine Williams, Teresa Bell-Stephens
Back to School Social and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Maria Abilock and Diane Jakubowski
Jump Start Day Bike Registration and JLS Walk and Roll Day

Mary Catherine Williams
Dance Chaperone Coordinator

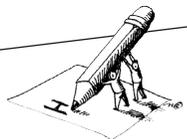
Parissa Mohammadi
PTA eNews JLS Online Communications

Sonya Bradski
Hearing/Vision/Scoliosis Testing Volunteer
Coordinator

Annie Bedichek
Student Directory Editor (print and distribution!)

Palo Alto Council of Parent Teacher Association
 Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School
 480 East Meadow Drive
 Palo Alto, CA 94306
 www.jls.pausd.org
 Main Office: 650-856-5188
 Fax: 650-856-3248
 Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 18
 Palo Alto, CA



To do:

- JLS/Gunn Band Concert, Oct 16
- 7th grade cell models display, Oct 23
- "The Hobbit" - Play Nov 14 , Nov 15 - (p,10)
- Sign up to Volunteer for Science Fair,
and Many face of JLS

Calendar

October

16	W	JLS/Gunn Band Concert, 7 p.m.
21	M	Site Council meeting, 3:30 p.m.
23	W	7th grade Cell Models display, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
24	Th	Hearing Screening

November

7	Th	Parent Visitation Day
7	Th	PTA Executive Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
11	M	Veterans' Day, NO SCHOOL
14	Th	"The Hobbit" drama performance, 7 p.m.
15	F	"The Hobbit" drama performance, 7 p.m.
18	M	Site Council meeting, 3:30 p.m.
20	W	Choir Concert, 7 p.m.
21	Th	Panther Tracks deadline
27-29	W-F	Thanksgiving Holiday, NO SCHOOL

December

4	W	Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
5	Th	PTA Executive Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
11	W	Band Concerts, 7 & 8:15 p.m.
13	F	JLS Dance, 7-9:30 p.m.
16	M	Site Council meeting, 3:30 p.m.
20	F	End of 1st Semester District-wide Minimum Day, 12:25 p.m. dismissal

January

9	Th	PTA Executive Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
10	F	Parent Visitation Day
13	M	Site Council meeting, 3:30 p.m.
14	Tu	6th grade & small group pictures
15	W	Many Faces of JLS Dinner, 6 p.m.
20	M	Holiday, NO SCHOOL
22-23	W-Th	Science Fair
23	Th	PTA General meeting, 8:30 a.m.