

**Subject:** JLS Middle School PTA Newsletter

**From:** JLS eNews Editor (jlsenews@gmail.com)

**To:** sthomas237@sbcglobal.net;

**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2015 3:01 PM

## PANTHER TRACKS – JLS PTA eNews SUNDAY, DEC 6



Dear Scott

Happy Holidays and a special Happy Chanukah to all our JLS families!

The JLS PTA is hosting a Staff Appreciation Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 9. It is an Indian theme luncheon. If anyone would like to bring in holiday treats, please bring it to room 730 before noon on Wednesday. Or contact Kala Lansberg - kala.mehta23@gmail.com

We appreciate the great work by the JLS staff!

Don't miss the Principal's coffee on December 11 at 8:15am. Join the JLS PTA Parent Networks as we host a follow up all-grade Parent Network meeting starring a special guest: Principal Sharon Ofek. Come early for coffee and get an update on all that's happening at JLS. Ms. Ofek will be available for Q&A after her presentation.



On behalf of the PTA, thank you very much for those who donated in making another successful Latte Cart Staff Appreciation Breakfast on Thursday. The staff really enjoyed it! If you left a basket, plate, pan, utensils, its washed in cabinet near the sink in the room next door in staff lounge.

Our next monthly Staff Appreciation Breakfast & Latte Cart is Thursday, January 7. All info and sign-ups can be found here: [www.tinyurl.com/JLSLatte](http://www.tinyurl.com/JLSLatte)

Thank you for helping to show our JLS staff how much we appreciate their effort in educating our kids.

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on  twitter

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Principal's Coffee December 11, 8:15 - 10
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Student Store Open December 7, 8, 10
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Staff Appreciation Lunch December 9
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Band Concert December 9
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JLS Film Festival December 11
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Lost & Found Items December 14
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Minimum Day December 18
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### JLS Film Festival

Over a dozen films have been submitted for consideration at the JLS Film Festival on Friday, December 11 from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

Ticket sales for the Film Festival are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Included in the ticket price is four types of Subway sandwiches, drinks, chips popcorn, and cookies. We are asking JLS students to donate school supplies in exchange for a ticket for the JLS Film Festival. The school supplies are for poor middle school students in Haiti.

JLS substitute teacher Kelly Kobza has founded the Greater Good Haiti program/school for Haitian school students who otherwise do not have the opportunity to attend school. With your support, they will be able to continue to a higher level of literacy and education.

For \$5 you can purchase pencils, pens, glue sticks, composition books, protractors, rulers, binder paper and many more.

Or you also can bring in \$5 worth of school supplies for a ticket.

If you donated to the Giving Tree in the counselor's office, you also receive a ticket.

What: JLS Film Festival

When: Friday, December 11

Time: 3:30pm to 5:30pm

Where: JLS Cafetorium

Cost: charitable donation

Includes: Subway sandwich, drinks, chips popcorn, cookies

[Click here](#) to watch a Video on the Haitian school!

## **GIVING TREE AT JLS! EXTENDED!**

JLS is hosting the annual Giving Tree Drive where you can help a child over the holidays by purchasing a gift for them. Visit the area outside the counselors' office to pick up a card with a present listed for a certain child. You can then purchase the present, new, sealed and not wrapped, and set it under the Giving Tree with the note card attached.

Donations need to be dropped off by December 8. Holiday items will be picked up on December 9.

Online donations through our [Virtual Giving Tree](#) are accepted until January 5.

More information

Family Giving Tree Sobrato Center for Nonprofits

606 Valley Way

Milpitas, CA 95035

(408) 946-3111

email: [elf@familygivingtree.org](mailto:elf@familygivingtree.org)

[vgt.familygivingtree.org](http://vgt.familygivingtree.org)

The JLS Giving Tree Drive is organized by Jaime Buddle's JLS Leadership Class.

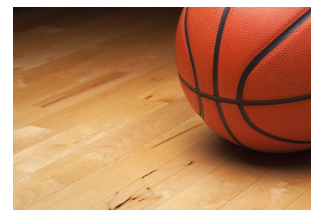
Thanks for bringing hope and joy to those in need.



## **Boys and Girls HOOPS!**

The 7th and 8th grade Boys and Girls Basketball team schedule has just been announced. There are ten teams. You can view the schedule, scores and standing from the league

website:  
[www.teamsideline.com/Find/](http://www.teamsideline.com/Find/)  
Select State: CA  
Name: JLS



Pick the JLS team you are interested in. Check out the home schedules teams!

[Click here to register boys](#)

[Click here to register girls](#)

More information on Middle School Athletics can be found [HERE](#). **GO PANTHERS!!**

### **JLS Store Update!**

The JLS Student Store will be open starting on Friday at lunchtime. The store will also be open for three days the following week. If you would like a preview of what's for sale: [www.JLSStudentStore.com](http://www.JLSStudentStore.com). You can also make purchases online. There are over 40 different items for sale.

The JLS string back packs are back - only 25 cents. The Student Store is now selling 8GB thumb drives for \$5.

The Student Store will be open during lunchtime on the following days to help sell tickets to the JLS Film Festival: **December 7, 8, 10.**

The JLS Student Store is a joint cooperative effort by the Student Leadership class, PTA volunteers and the JLS administration. More information: [JLSStudentStore@gmail.com](mailto:JLSStudentStore@gmail.com)

### **JLS Mindfulness & Parenting Workshop**

Announcing JLS "Mindfulness & Parenting" Workshop and Introductory Evening with Amy Saltzman

Do you find.. the combination of living, parenting, and working in or out of the home stressful? Do loads of laundry, late office hours, a full schedule of enriching activities, or "all of the above" make you feel irritable and a bit crazy?

Would you like to...minimize the effects of daily stress on you and your children and find some grace amidst the chaos?

Then come learn to apply the practice of Mindfulness to your daily life with children in a 6-week workshop "Mindfulness and Parenting" with Dr. Amy Saltzman.

Date: Thursday, 1/21, 28, 2/4, 18, 25, 3/3

Time: 8:30am to 10:00am

Place: Room P70, JLS

Materials/Donation: \$30 due at first session. (Scholarships available)

The PTA will host an Introductory Evening by Dr. Amy Saltzman on Wednesday, January 13th at 7pm (Rm 730) where you'll find out all about Mindfulness and get a glimpse of Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction so please join us!

[Sign up here](#) if you plan to attend:  
(Questions? Email [junco.minami@gmail.com](mailto:junco.minami@gmail.com))

Dr. Amy is a holistic physician, mindfulness coach, scientist, wife, mother, devoted student of transformation, long-time athlete, and occasional poet. Her passion is supporting people of all ages in enhancing their well being and discovering the Still Quiet Place within. She is recognized by her peers as a visionary and pioneer in the fields of holistic medicine and mindfulness for youth.

### Shop and earn \$ for JLS PTA!

Donate to the PTA while doing your holiday shopping at Amazon!

Here's how: If you shop online at Amazon.com, be sure to start every time by clicking on [this link](#) - if you do, then at least 4% will be donated to JLS PTA. Amazon advises that in order to ensure JLS PTA receives the proper advertising credits that all shopping sessions be initiated through this active link or make sure your bookmark has the exact url as this active link (<http://www.amazon.com/?%5Fencoding=UTF8&tag=jp009-20>)



Please note items placed in a customer's shopping cart must not exceed 24-hour window to earn the credit.

### More ways to earn \$ for JLS!

Did you register on eScrip? When you register your credit cards, debit cards, and grocery cards at [escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), many purchases you make with these registered cards will result in donations to JLS! There is no extra cost to you, and every qualifying purchase counts!



Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) today, for new registrations or to update existing cards.

### Group Selection: Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School PTA (ID# 130315138)

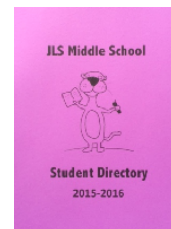
Participating retailers include Nordstrom, Gap, Safeway, Piazza's, Mollie Stone, REI, Home Depot and more!

### JLS Student Directory - Printed copies!

We have a limited number of printed directories available in the school office.

This year, we are not printing one copy per family, so they will not be sent home with your child as in years past. But if you would like a copy, please stop by the school office and ask for one!

Thank you!



### JLS PTA has Vacancies!

**We need your help!**

Looking for ways to participate? Here are a few jobs for which the JLS PTA is recruiting:

**Student BBQ (May 2016):** recruit and direct volunteers on tasks of grilling and serving food to students. Food and most prep to be provided by PAUSD Food Services staff.

**Advocacy Chair:** work with Palo Alto PTA Council to advance advocacy efforts; inform JLS membership of major advocacy issues and events. More info here: <http://ptac.paloaltopta.org/current-efforts/>

**Ways and Means Chair:** manage all aspects of donation partnership programs such as corporate matching, eScrip, Amazon Smile and Amazon Affiliates, etc. Promote and communicate details to membership to maximize donations.

## HOMWORK HABITAT

Homework Habitat and late bus service occur during regular (e.g. non-early-release) Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays.

Homework Habitat occurs in the library and runs 3:15-4:25. The late bus will depart from the main parking lot at approximately 4:30. Please note that students who leave campus after school are not permitted to return to JLS to ride the late bus home; they must find alternative transportation.

## JLS Writing Center

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:15 to 4:15

Do you have writing homework or an essay that needs some attention? Check out the brand new (awesome) JLS Writing Center! This twice a week program is held in Room 113 after school and includes a snack (bonus!) and writing support. Laptop access is included! See you there!

## PTA Membership Cards

Calling All JLS PTA Members!

Pick up your membership card at the JLS main office and enjoy "perks" such as discounts at Staples, California Academy of Sciences, Legoland, and more:<http://downloads.capta.org/mem/PerksFlier.pdf>

Next to the membership card, pick up a few Baskin Robbins coupons as a "thank you" for your PTA membership!

## Attendance Email

Email [jlsattendance@pausd.org](mailto:jlsattendance@pausd.org) for your attendance-related information and requests.

Please note that messages must originate from the parent email address on record in Infinite Campus. You can still contact the attendance office at 650.856.5179

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### YCS Students With A Gateway (SWAG)

Join Youth Community Service's after school program, Students With A Gateway, and have fun while being leaders through service! Research community needs and respond with a service project. We will explore homelessness, diversity, environmental stewardship, and health. Meet people who share a passion for community involvement, have a positive impact, and make your voice heard!

Details: Wednesdays, 3:00pm - 4:30pm Jan. 13, 2016 - May 18, 2016 Mitchell Park Community Center, Palo Alto Fee: \$100, scholarships available Please contact Hanh at [hanh@youthcommunityservice.org](mailto:hanh@youthcommunityservice.org) to register. Phone: 650-858-8019

### Percussion Ensemble Concert

Thursday, Dec. 10

7:30pm

Spangenberg Theater

Percussion ensembles from Gunn Freshman Concert Band, Symphonic Band, & Wind Ensemble as well as the JLS Percussion Ensemble will perform a wide variety of musical styles.

Highlights include:

Techno Pop--Nathan Daughtery

Scamper--Jared Spears

Rondo alla Turk--Mozart

Funeral March for a Marionette--Gounod

Original compositions by PAUSD percussionists

### California School Parent Survey

Available until Dec. 18

Please help our school district by participating in the California School Parent Survey. This



year Palo Alto Unified School District invites ALL parents and guardians to participate in a school-specific survey, the California School Parent Survey (CSPS). Its purpose is to obtain parent perceptions of student behavior and attitudes, school programs and policies, and the overall school climate as they relate to student well-being and learning. It deals with such issues as truancy, safety, harassment, substance use, school connectedness, and learning supports. The survey is a companion to the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) for students in grades 5, 7, 9, and 11, and the California School Climate Survey (CSCS) for staff. This year, PAUSD is administering all 3 surveys, student (CHKS), staff (CSCS), and parent (CSPS).

Please look for Infinite Campus reminder message this week which will include your school link and access code for participating in the parent survey.

For more information, please contact Soula Nikolakopoulos, (650) 329-3986.

### **"Surviving and Thriving during the Holiday Season and Beyond" Holiday Coffee for Parents of Children with Learning Disabilities, Special Needs and other challenges**

Fri, Dec 11, 8:30 - 9:45 AM, Lucie Stern Community Center, Palo Alto

Parents are invited to join in this community gathering for an interactive discussion led by Shari Grande, MSW, a Clinical Social Worker, Certified Parent Coach and Special Needs Mom. Shari will focus on the extra stress that the holiday season can present for children (and their families) with challenges and provide strategies to help us survive and thrive during the holiday season and beyond. This event is open to all Palo Alto parents and caretakers. Translation provided for Spanish and Mandarin speakers. Sponsored by the PTA Council, PTA Inclusion Representatives and the Palo Alto CAC.

For additional information please email Christina Schmidt at [paloaltocac@gmail.com](mailto:paloaltocac@gmail.com), or visit our website: [www.cacpaloalto.org](http://www.cacpaloalto.org)

### **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 JLS students. Web page: <http://ptac.paloaltopta.org/sports-and-activities/>

Palo Alto Council of PTAs Sports Page

### **Food Service Open Forum**

Fri Dec 11, 3 -4 PM, Board room at 25 Churchill Av. Palo Alto, CA

A Food Service Open Forum will be held for students, parents and community members to come ask questions, give feedback and learn about the Student Nutrition Service Department. The 3rd Annual Future Chef Competition is coming soon! Recipe submission cards will be available in January. The theme this year is Healthy Breakfast recipes. [Click here for more info!](#)

### **Ragazzi Boys Chorus Family Winter Recital**

Sat, Dec 12, 5:00 PM, First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto

Presenting the singers of Ragazzi Boys Chorus, from small to tall - and particularly the younger boys. The program of musical growth is laid out, from entry-level through middle school, with seasonal music. Sit back and enjoy the boys' musical accomplishments. Tickets can be purchased at <http://ragazzi.org/performances/>

### **Annual Holiday LEGO Show "Living LEGO-cy"**

Open from Fri - Sun, Dec 11 - Jan 17, 11 AM - 4 PM (closed Dec 25 & Jan 1), 351 Homer Av. Palo Alto

The Museum of American Heritage (MOAH) is excited to host the Annual Holiday LEGO Show, "Living LEGO-cy," brought to you by the talented Bay Area LEGO User's Group at the MOAH's Frank Livermore Learning Center. It will feature a large model train layout made entirely from LEGO, with the rest of the room filled with all types of impressive creations, from castles to spaceships to sculptures.

Admission: \$3 per person, cash only please (BayLUG and MoAH members are free!).

Contact: (650) 321-1004 or [mail@moah.org](mailto:mail@moah.org)

Note: Street parking, or take Caltrain to Palo Alto, and walk a few blocks southeast.

**Shop Paly Glass for Holiday Gifts @ the Fiery Arts Winter Glass Sale**

Fri, Dec. 4, 3-6:00pm & Sat, Dec. 5, 11am-4pm INSIDE the Administration/Tower Bldg. 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto

Exquisite Paly-designed decorative and functional hand-blown glass. PALY GLASS is a triple win - they make impressive & memorable gifts, your proceeds benefit Paly's Sculpture classes and there's easy parking. The glass is hand made by instructors, alum, and students. It is our last public sale for the school year to fund the program. Free demonstrations, hot apple cider and cookies too. Contact: PalyFieryArts@gmail. com , or http://sites.google.com/site/ PalyGlass Like our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ PalyFieryArts .

**Happiness Program by The Art of Living**

Dec 9-13 (Weekdays 6pm-9:30pm, Weekend 9am-3:30pm), Gunn High School P.E. Room

This is a dynamic, interactive and fun workshop with very deep knowledge on life. The workshop is transformational that it helps you blossom to your highest potential. The centerpiece is a powerful breathing technique called Sudarshan Kriya, that uses specific natural rhythms of the breath to release stress at the deepest level, and also balance and integrate mind, body and heart. Repeaters are welcome (repeater fee is \$100). Register: bit.ly/DecPaloAlto

**Join your grade's Parent Network!**

Organized by the JLS PTA, Parent Networks provide grade-specific information and regular meetings to foster a supportive and collaborative parent community. TO JOIN, contact the below coordinators:

6th grade coordinators: Claire Kirner, Valerie Sabbag

7th grade coordinators: Lisa Barkin, Nirmala Patni, Stephanie Compton, Rebecca Thompson

8th grade coordinators: Aviva Saitz, Patricia Stayte

**Would you like your employer to DONATE to JLS?**

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Notify your employer of your donation to the JLS PTA, to activate their Corporate Matching Program. And THANK YOU for taking this extra step to contribute JLS Middle School!  
 JL Stanford Middle School PTA tax id 94-6174779

480 E. Meadow Drive  
Palo Alto, California 94306

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