

**Subject:** JLS Middle School PTA Newsletter

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

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

**Date:** Sunday, August 28, 2016 12:02 AM

PANTHER TRACKS – JLS PTA eNews

Sunday, Aug 28



Dear Scott

**Welcome to JLS eNews! Stay informed about JLS community.**

Our eNews will come to your inbox every Sunday so be sure to have a look!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Back to School Pizza Dinner Aug 31, 6:00 PM
Latino Parent Orientation Night Aug 31, 7:00 PM
Connection Parent Coffee Sep 1, 8:15 AM
Labor Day- NO SCHOOL Sep 5
6th Grade Parent Math Information Night Sep 6, 6:00 PM
6th Grade Parent Math Information Night Sep 8, 6:00 PM
PTA General Meeting Sep 8, 8:30 AM

## Back to School Pizza Dinner- First Social Event of the Year!

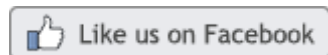
Wed, Aug. 31 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Reunite with old friends and make new ones at this fun kick-off to the school year Pizza Dinner at the JLS Cafetorium. Pizza (yes, including vegetarian and gluten-free!), salad, dessert, and drinks **all provided by the JLS PTA**.

This event is free for all JLS families, but to make sure we order enough, please [click here to RSVP](#) - we need your response to fine tune the order!

Also, to make this event successful, please **sign up [here to help](#)** serve pizza, bring treats to share, or help set up or clean up - we'll take turns & make sure you get time to eat and connect!

Any questions or suggestions? Contact Grace Downer ([gracedowner@gmail.com](mailto:gracedowner@gmail.com)).



### JOIN US! TOGETHER WE STRENGTHEN OUR SCHOOLS!



PiE has launched its 2016-2017 fundraising campaign. We ask to you to join us as our kids need the support of the whole community. PiE funds go to every Palo Alto district school and give each principal the funding needed to staff many programs that make a difference for the students and families at each school location. From our classroom aides, to teachers for STEAM-focused electives, music and art, to caring counselors and mentors, PiE-funded staff make a positive impact on our kids every day.

**Between now and September 6**, you can double your impact via **the \$500,000 Back-To-School Challenge Grant** which matches every dollar donated to PiE.

**Please donate today!** [Click here to donate online.](#)

### BIKE SAFETY for JLS!

A reminder for students who bike to JLS:

Parents should be aware that the way one would bike to JLS is not the same way one might drive there. Bicycling students should **avoid using Waverley** north of East Meadow. Waverley is the auto access route for JLS and doesn't have the width to accommodate cars and bicycles. If coming from the north side of campus, students should **use Cowper** if at all possible."

### How To Get A Bike License:

Bike licenses help PAPD connect recovered stolen bikes to their owners and also can help emergency responders connect a bicyclist with family after an accident if the cyclist isn't carrying ID. If you missed out on getting your bikes licensed at Jump Start Day recently,

you can get a license at any Palo Alto Fire Station between 4:00-5:00 pm. As long as they are not out on an emergency call, someone will be available to issue a license to you.

More information on walking and biking to school safely can be found at :  
<http://jls.pausd.org/default/index.cfm/getting-to-jls/bicycling-and-walking-to-jls/>

### **Check Your Student's Helmet!**

Bicycle helmets should be replaced every four years, even if they appear undamaged because the rigid foam in the helmet will break down with time and won't protect your head in a collision. Helmets with cracks in the outer plastic shell should be replaced, as should helmets that are too small. (The helmet should touch the top of your student's head. To find out if it touches, put your finger in an air vent at the top of the helmet.)

For tips on getting the helmet adjusted properly, see our [new helmet flyer](#).

### **JLS ONLINE DIRECTORY- KONSTELLA!**

The new JLS Directory is going online today. You should receive an invitation email (sent to the email on file in Infinite Campus). Click "JOIN", and create a password at [www.konstella.com](http://www.konstella.com) to log in. Then check to make sure your other information is correct; edit if necessary. We will use this information in the printed directory.

Note: if you already registered through your elementary school, no action is necessary. Just continue to use Konstella as before. And if you used the same email address for both parents in Infinite Campus, we randomly chose one parent's name, but you can edit the name online.

Questions: [JLSDirectory@gmail.com](mailto:JLSDirectory@gmail.com)

### **A PUBLIC FORUM FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE PAUSD SCHOOL BOARD!**

Be educated! The Palo Alto PTA Council and League of Women Voters have organized an opportunity for you to meet the the candidates for the PAUSD Board of Education on Mon, Sep 22, 7-9 pm, 25 Churchill Ave., Palo Alto. The Board of Education is the K-12 policy-making body for academic standards, curriculum, instructional materials, assessments and accountability. Thank you to the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto for sponsoring this forum that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League and PTAC neither supports nor opposes candidates. The Candidates Forum is organized to provide equal and non-preferential opportunities for each candidate for Palo Alto Unified School Board to make short prepared statements and to answer questions written by audience members on cards provided at the event. Volunteers help make the event run smoothly.

The entire Forum will be videotaped by Midpeninsula studios and broadcast later on community TV channels. All other recordings, visual and audio, are prohibited.  
<http://ptac.paloaltopta.org/>

<http://www.lwvpaloalto.org/>  
<https://www.pausd.org/explore-pausd/board-education>

### **Want To Be More Involved at JLS This Year? Consider helping the JLS PTA!**

Come volunteer with this year's JLS PTA! Taking part in our programs and events brings you closer to your student's JLS experience, while working with dedicated and interesting parents. There are many different types of jobs, ranging from short-term easy support events and tasks, to longer-term and even year-round positions. We welcome whatever level of time and talents you can contribute, and we promise you'll have fun. Please visit the JLS PTA website, [jlswp.paloaltopta.org](http://jlswp.paloaltopta.org) to see a full list of the JLS PTA events and open positions, and fill out the form to indicate any interests you may have. This is not a commitment! We will contact you with more information which will help you decide if you would like to join us.

Questions? Contact Julia Jacobsen, JLS PTA President 2016-2017:  
[juliacjacobsen@gmail.com](mailto:juliacjacobsen@gmail.com)

### **Stay Connected all Parents of JLS- subscribe to Weekly JLS eNews!**

Please subscribe to the JLS CLASS list. This will ensure that you will receive the weekly JLS eNews during all of the years your student is at JLS and also any separate communications that are sent only to EACH grade of JLS parents. To be included in the JLS Class list, sign up [here](#).

### **JLS eNews Publication Guideline**

JLS eNews is a publication of the JLS PTA. It is sent out each Sunday morning, with special editions sent out as required.

If you want to publish an announcement relevant to JLS, send an email to [jls.eneews@gmail.com](mailto:jls.eneews@gmail.com). Include the following information: title, date, time, and location of the event, a brief as possible description, and contact information. Items submitted by Thursday 2 pm will appear in the Sunday Edition. The submission should be completely and already proofed.

Announcements relevant to other schools in the PAUSD district can be sent to [eneews@paloaltopta.org](mailto:eneews@paloaltopta.org).

Our PTA has a **noncommercial policy**, which states that we do not associate with any commercial activities of other organizations including, but not limited to, the promotion of their goods and services. Only submissions from nonprofit organizations will be considered for placement in the eNews.

Submit material no earlier than 1 month before the event. Announcements will generally run for a maximum of three weeks. Previous editions of eNews can be found at the [eNews archive](#) page.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact  
[jls.eneews@gmail.com](mailto:jls.eneews@gmail.com).

### Home Work 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.

### 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

#### Palo Alto FLL Robotics FIRST® LEGO® League for Middle School Students

Does your student love Robotics? Do they want to learn about STEM? Join FLL! It all adds up to tons of fun while they learn to apply science, technology, engineering, and math concepts (STEM), plus a big dose of imagination, to solve a problem. Email [paloaltoFLL@gmail.com](mailto:paloaltoFLL@gmail.com) for more information. \*Teams are not run by the Palo Alto Unified School District, but by two high school robotics teams: FRC Team 1868 The Space Cookies ([frc.spacecookies.org](http://frc.spacecookies.org)) and FRC Team 8 PALY Robotics ([palyrobotics.com](http://palyrobotics.com)).

#### YCS Sponsors Art in the Street!

Sat, Aug 27 & Sun, Aug 28, 10 am - 6 pm, Tasso St. Downtown Palo Alto

Join Youth Community Service chalk artists on Tasso Street during the Palo Alto Art Festival. Youth under 8 years old can create their own chalk art on the street. Watch Palo Alto teens and professional artists create beautiful 3-D works of art in colored chalk on street pavement. Benefits YCS youth service and leadership programs in local schools. Info: [www.youthcommunityservice.org](http://www.youthcommunityservice.org) or call 650-858-8019.

#### Classroom Volunteers Needed - An Hour a Week Could Change a Student's Life

If you've enjoyed spending time in your child's classroom, please join other parents volunteering in east Menlo Park or East Palo Alto schools where there are virtually no parent volunteers. You'll help tutor kids in grades K-4. Over 80% of students are performing below grade level in reading and math. Work once a week in the same classroom for about an hour, building relationships with students. All Students Matter provides training and coordinates everything. We start in mid-September. You can make a

real difference! To learn more or sign up, visit [www.allstudentsmatter.org](http://www.allstudentsmatter.org) or contact Keri Tully ( [keritully@gmail.com](mailto:keritully@gmail.com) ).

### **Financial Aid for Students:**

Have or know a college-bound student? The Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA will now open Oct 1, 2016 for the 2017-2018 school year for anyone seeking financial assistance. FAFSA offers grants, work-study funds and low-interest federal student loans. The program includes information on state funds that may be available to pay for a child's higher education. More info at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>

### **Kids.gov**

Kids.gov is the official kids' portal for the U.S. government. It links kids, parents and teachers to information and services on the web from government agencies, schools, and educational organizations, all geared to the learning level and interest of kids. Kids.gov is organized into four audiences: Kids (Grades K-5), Teens (Grades 6-8), Teachers and Parents. Each audience tab is divided into educational subjects like Arts, Math, and History. For more information, go to [kids.usa.gov](http://kids.usa.gov) .

### **Let's Talk, A SELPA 1 Support Group**

Mon, Sept 12, 7-9pm, Orchard Community Room, Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

A chance to ask questions and share ideas, resources, and support with other parents of students with IEPs, 504s, learning differences, mental health challenges, etc. All are welcome, participants must respect confidentiality.

For more information, see [www.selpa1cac.org](http://www.selpa1cac.org)

### **Puberty for Students with Challenges, SELPA1CAC Coffee Talk**

Wed, Sept 21, 7-9PM, Santa Rita Elementary, 700 Los Altos Avenue, Los Altos (new location!)

Dr Jacob Towery will be discussing adolescents with challenges entering puberty, issues parents should be aware of, and common psychiatric medications and their effects on teenagers. There will be ample time for questions and answers. For more information, see [www.selpa1cac.org](http://www.selpa1cac.org)

### **Trail Closure/Tree Removal Along San Francisquito Creek**

As part of the San Francisquito Creek flood control project, the Bay/San Francisquito Creek trail that runs from Geng and Embarcadero Road to the Friendship Bridge (through the Baylands Athletic Center, along the Golf Course) will soon be closed. The flood control project is scheduled to begin September 1, but the trail may be closed as early as mid-August. On the Palo Alto side of the creek, the trail is expected to be closed for the entire two-year duration of the project. Signs are being posted along the trail in advance to warn users about the upcoming closure and tree removals that are required for the construction project.

**Silicon Valley Boychoir Auditions**

Thurs Sept 1/Fri, Sept 2 by appointment, Palo Alto

Open to 2nd-12th grade boys. High school and middle school boys with experience may audition for upper levels. Auditions for the 2016-2017 season are held at the choir's rehearsal location near downtown Palo Alto (600 Homer Ave). SVB has four levels of choirs and provides a personalized approach to teaching singing, music theory, and sight-singing, and provides flexible scheduling for busy families. In addition to their own winter and spring concerts, SVB performs for local events including performances with West Bay Opera, Schola Cantorum of Mountain View, and at Stanford University.

Email [info@svboychoir.org](mailto:info@svboychoir.org) or visit <http://svboychoir.org>

**El Camino Youth Symphony Orchestra Fall Auditions**

Palo Alto-based El Camino Youth Symphony invites musicians ages 6-18 to audition for the 2016-17 season. Led by an internationally renowned faculty, ECYS offers six orchestras/ensembles for students at all levels of musical ability. Auditions are held in August and September. Apply online at [www.ECYS.org](http://www.ECYS.org). Call ECYS at 650-213-7111 for more information.

**PreSchool Family 70th Anniversary Celebration**

Sun, Sept 25, 3-5pm, Greendell School, 4120 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto

PreSchool Family is turning 70. Celebrate with classroom visits, alumni class photos, and refreshments. Alumni and Current Families welcome. Hosted by Friends of PreSchool Family. For more information, visit [psf.pausd.org](http://psf.pausd.org).

**Free Community Day at Gamble Garden**

Sun, Oct 2, 10AM - 2PM, 1431 Waverley St, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Gamble Garden celebrates our community with a FREE fun filled all ages day. The day's festivities include fun children's activities, a gorgeous plant sale, horticultural resources, educational displays, garden demonstrations, food, entertainment, and of course... digging for worms! This is an opportunity for the community to spend some time at Gamble Garden, meet neighbors and enjoy some activities and hospitality. Please register at <https://www.gamblegarden.org/event/community-day-oct/>

**Community Discussion on Teen Suicide**

Wed Sept 7, 6.30-8PM CHC, 650 Clark Way. Palo Alto 94304

CHC (Childrens Health Council) and the Findings from the CDC Preliminary Report on Teen Suicide: A Community Discussion. CHC's Dr. Ramsey Khasho will present the findings of the recent CDC report and will lead an open discussion about its implications for teen mental health in Palo Alto and the neighboring communities. Additionally, Dr. Khasho will discuss the results from our 8-week McKinsey & Co. study, and how all these reports shape our Teen Mental Health Initiative.

Register at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/chc-and-the-findings-from-the-cdc-preliminary-report-on-teen-suicide-a-community-discussion-registration-27076396230>

**Following events are sponsored by Project Safety Net. September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month:**

### **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training (2-day Training, Ages 16+)**

Tues, Sept 6 and Wed, Sept 7, 3-7pm, Mitchell Park Complex (9/6) & Cubberley Community Center (9/7), Palo Alto

Youth Mental Health First Aid USA is an 8-hour public education program which introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge.

RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-mental-health-first-aid-training-palo-alto-tickets-26960741303>

### **Question Persuade and Refer (QPR) Training**

Thurs, Sept 8, 2016, 6-8pm, Lucie Stern Community Center, Palo Alto

Sat, Sept 10, 2016, 2-4pm, Palo Alto Community Health Fair, Mitchell Park Complex

Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) for suicide prevention is a FREE two-hour training available to anyone 18 years of age or older. QPR training helps you learn the signs of suicide, and what to do to help prevent this most preventable of deaths.

For Thu Sept 8, RSVP [https://apm.activecommunities.com/paloalto/Activity\\_Search/qpr-question-persuade-refer/7479](https://apm.activecommunities.com/paloalto/Activity_Search/qpr-question-persuade-refer/7479)

For Sat Sept 10, RSVP <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-qpr-question-persuade-refer-suicide-prevention-course-at-palo-alto-community-health-fair-tickets-27180060292>

### **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Silicon Valley Walk**

Sat, Sept 17, Walk begins at 11am, Arena Green, San Jose, CA

Put on your walking shoes-on-site or virtually-- to join the Palo Alto Community and Project Safety Net for this important mental health awareness event. Your support will help change the perceptions about mental wellness, reduce mental health stigma, and promote suicide prevention. For more information, visit <http://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=9367>

### **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: Anjani Sama



7th grade coordinators: Claire Kimer  
8th grade coordinators: Lisa Barkin

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



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

JLS Middle School PTA, 480 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94306

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