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**Subject:** Fwd: JLS Middle School PTA Newsletter

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**From:** Scott Thomas (sdthomas237@gmail.com)

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

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**Date:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 9:27 AM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **JLS eNews Editor** <[jlsenews@gmail.com](mailto:jlsenews@gmail.com)>

Date: Sun, Jan 29, 2017 at 12:01 AM

Subject: JLS Middle School PTA Newsletter

To: [sdthomas237@gmail.com](mailto:sdthomas237@gmail.com)

## PANTHER TRACKS - JLS PTA eNews Sun, Jan 29



Dear Scott

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Common Writing Assessment Week Jan 30th - Feb 3rd
French Projects Feb 1st, 7:00 PM
PTA Latte Cart for Staff Feb 2nd, 7:30 - 10:30 AM
PTA Exec Board meeting Feb 2nd, 8:30 - 10:00 AM
Lunar New Year Staff Luncheon Feb 3rd
Drama production (Harriet the Spy) Feb 3rd and 4th , 7:00 -8:00 PM

## Attention JLS Parents for Wet- Weather School Commutes!

We have received some questions and concerns about wet-weather school commutes at JLS. Even in the rainy season children should walk, bike, carpool, or ride a bus or shuttle whenever possible. The JLS website contains links to [shuttle information](#) that can help keep the routes clear and safer for all. If you must drop off or pick up a student, please follow [school guidelines](#) and try to set up a rainy day carpool in advance. We have received some reports about parking and unsafe driving behaviors that interrupt traffic flow around the Mitchell Park parking lot. If you must drop off your student(s), please ensure that he/she exits or enters the car from the curb side and never double park, block access to ramps or stop where prohibited. Thank you.

[Adam Nelson](#), JLS Assistant Principal

## Common Writing Assessment begins January 30

The week of January 30 through February 3

JLS English teachers will administer a common writing assessment to all students. Students will have multiple periods to plan, draft, and write a multi-paragraph response to a grade-level prompt. Teachers use these results to guide their writing instruction for the remainder of the school year.

JLS English Department

## PTA Latte Cart for Staff

Thur, February 2 7:30 - 10:00 AM

The PTA hosts a monthly LATTE CART at JLS, where coffee and morning treats are served to our wonderful JLS staff as a thank you for all they do. On these Latte Cart mornings, we ask our parent community for contributions of breakfast items and to stay and serve.

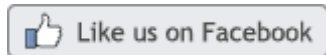
Please bring your breakfast items to room 40 (at the entrance to the breezeway) that morning between 7:15 - 9:00 am. Non-perishable items may be brought ahead of time to the main office on the Wednesday before. You can sign up [here](#).

Here is a list of suggested items:

- quiche and other egg dishes (heated; store bought is fine)
- breakfast sausages
- fresh whole fruit, e.g. bananas, mini-tangerines, berries
- fruit salads
- homemade scones

- homemade muffins
- homemade breads, e.g. banana, zucchini, pumpkin
- homemade coffee cakes
- granola, homemade or store bought
- yogurt, all sizes, all kinds
- other breakfast items, be creative!

Thank you so much. Questions? Contact our Latte Cart coordinators, [Ivan Hom](#) and [Grace Downer](#).



## The JLS Science Fair, Tue, February 28, 7:00 - 8:30 PM!

Save the date! The JLS Science Fair is coming up soon. Join the entire JLS community for a fun-filled evening of science, with students proudly showing off their work in poster sessions and some fabulous science and technology-related demonstrations.

The Science Fair is a great way for students to develop and apply an interest in science and the scientific method. Participants will exercise their curiosity, approach real world problems in a systematic and scientific way, and apply creativity towards questions that interest them. Students should be hearing more details about the fair from their science teachers, and begin thinking about their experiments. Once experimentation is complete, students will present their work in poster format (poster boards generously donated by Synopsys). Each participant will be interviewed by a JLS parent or other member of our community, and participate in peer reviews. All student presenters will be able to exchange their peer reviews for a participation prize, and will be entered into a prize drawing for a number of terrific items. Registration will open soon!

The Science Fair cannot happen without lots of parent (and other community) volunteers, especially interviewers who are willing to listen to students sharing their projects and provide constructive positive feedback during a brief non-competitive, informal interview. Details will soon be available about volunteer opportunities, but in the meantime, mark your calendars for the evening of Tuesday, February 28th.

In addition to Synopsys, the Science Fair is sponsored by the JLS PTA, and also supported by donations from a number of local businesses. Questions? Contact [Maria Derrick](#), Science Fair Chair.

## PAUSD / PTAC News

### **Inclusive Resource Fair of Summer Camps, After-School Activities & Educational Resources**

Thur, Feb 9th, 6:30 - 8:30pm,

JLS Middle School Cafetorium, 480 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto

Join us to meet 30+ providers of summer camps, after-school activities, and in-school programs who will present information about their programs and be available to talk 1:1 with parents. All providers can accommodate some students' special needs, either in an inclusive environment or a special program, and can discuss specific accommodations. Some offer on-site enrollment. Information on financial assistance available, and many providers offer fee waivers based on need.

Organized by the Palo Alto Community Advisory Committee for Special Education, and co-sponsored by Parent Advocates for Student Success (PASS), and the Palo Alto Council of PTAs. Childcare and snacks for kids will be provided, please RSVP for childcare to [paloaltocac@gmail.com](mailto:paloaltocac@gmail.com). For more information, including the complete list of vendors as it is finalized, go to [www.cacpaloalto.org](http://www.cacpaloalto.org).

### **Feria de Recursos de Campamentos de Verano, Actividades Después de Clases y Recursos Educativos**

Jueves, 9 de febrero, 6:30 - 8:30pm,

En el cafetorio de la Escuela Media JLS, 480 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto

Acompañennos a conocer a más de 30 proveedores de campos de verano, de actividades para realizar después de clases y de programas dentro de la escuela quienes estarán brindando información sobre sus programas y que también estarán disponibles para hablar 1:1 con los padres. Todos son proveedores que pueden admitir a niños con algunas necesidades especiales ya sea dentro de un ambiente incluyente o dentro de un programa especial y podrán conversar sobre ajustes especiales que su hijo/a pueda necesitar. Podrán existir opciones de inscribirse en el lugar. Habrá información sobre asistencia financiera y muchos proveedores ofrecen becas que se adaptan a sus necesidades.

Se contará con servicio de guardería y refrigerios para niños, por favor RSVP para el cuidado de los niños a [paloaltocac@gmail.com](mailto:paloaltocac@gmail.com). Para mayor información, incluyendo la lista de proveedores cuando está completa, ingrese a: [www.cacpaloalto.org](http://www.cacpaloalto.org).

Organizado por el Palo Alto Comité Asesor Comunitario para la Educación Especial y patrocinado por Parent Advocates for Student Success (PASS) y el Consejo de Palo Alto de PTAs.

### **Palo Alto Chinese New Year Fair**

Sun, Feb 12, 2-5 pm, Mitchell Park Community Center (3700 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto)

The Palo Alto Chinese Community cordially invites you to join our 2017 Chinese New Year Fair, which will feature performances of Chinese folk music, instruments and dances by local talents as well as students from Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD). Many Chinese culture will be exhibited such as Chinese brush painting, Mahjong, dumpling-making, fung shui, board games and crafts. The event is free to all Palo Alto residents, and food will be sold for fund-raising to support Palo Alto schools. This event is co-sponsored by City of Palo Alto and the PTA Council, and the goal is to promote friendship among

residents of different cultures and contribute to the vibrancy and health of our diverse community. Hope to see you all there! Questions please contact Hannah Lu([hannahlu00@gmail.com](mailto:hannahlu00@gmail.com)) or Sheena Chin([sheenachin@gmail.com](mailto:sheenachin@gmail.com)).

### **2017 Annual Sweetheart Awards - Call for Nominations**

Is there a bus driver, friend, teacher, administrator, neighbor, aide, crossing guard, coach, fellow student, therapist, physician, volunteer or relative that has done something (however large or small) for your special needs child with an IEP or 504? Honor that person by nominating him or her for a Sweetheart Award. Submit nominations using this online form by February 10th: <http://tinyurl.com/2017Sweethearts>. The Awards Ceremony will be on Wednesday, February 22nd from 6-8pm at Nixon Elementary School. For more information or questions email: [sweethearts.award@gmail.com](mailto:sweethearts.award@gmail.com) or go to [www.cacpal Alto.org](http://www.cacpal Alto.org). Co- sponsored by Palo Alto Community Advisory Committee for Special Education and the Palo Alto Council of PTAs.

### **Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) and Special Olympics Northern California**

Basketball Tournament, 9.30AM - 12PM, Mar 15 (Elementary) & Mar 22 (Secondary), Terman Middle School 655 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto  
Track & Field Event: TBD, Gunn High School 750 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto

PAUSD and Special Olympics Northern California have joined forces together in a new Special Olympics Schools Partnership program. Through sports, the program aims to provide opportunities for PAUSD special education students and their peers to work together as teammates and to create inclusive opportunities in the school community. More info: <https://www.pausd.org/explore-pausd/news/pausd-partners-special-olympics-schools-program>

## **Community News**

### **The 2017 Gunn Choir Staff Musical: And Then There Were Nuns**

(Featuring the JLS Choir Wed, February 8 Wed, February 8)

Feb7, 8 and 9, at 8 pm

The Palo Alto High School Performing Arts Center, 50 Embarcadero Road

JLS students, families, and the whole community are invited to join the 160 voice Gunn Choir and Gunn staff members for the fabulous 2017 Gunn Choir Staff Musical! Special feature of the JLS choir one night only - Wednesday, February 8. Join in the fun as Dorothy and Toto set off to the Big Apple to audition for a Broadway musical. Despite stumbling into a mob hit and getting spirited away to a nunnery as part of the NYPD Witness Protection Program, nothing can keep our heroine from her ambition to make it in show biz. Tickets (\$20 for adults, \$10 for students) are on sale at <http://gunnchoir.org> and at the door. All proceeds benefit the Choir's scholarship fund for their singing tour to Ireland in June. You won't want to miss it!

### **Gunn Orchestra Concert with Terman and JLS Ensembles**

Tue, Jan 31, 7.30 -8.45 PM, Palo Alto High School Performing Arts Center

The two Gunn Orchestras along with Gunn Chamber Orchestra will be joined by the Terman and JLS advanced Orchestras. The concert will feature works by Vivaldi, Shostakovich, Brian Balmages, the rock band Queen and our performance will end with a combined piece by Percy Grainger called Mock Morris. Please join us at the wonderful Paly PAC! Admission is free but a good will donation of \$5 dollars is greatly appreciated!

### **Winter Band Concert**

Thurs, Feb 2, 7:30 - 9 PM, Palo Alto High School Performing Arts Center

Come and enjoy a variety of pieces with a patriotic flair from the Freshman Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble.

Concert highlights include: Charles Ives's classic, Variations on America; the beautiful tribute to Columbine High School, An American Elegy; a tribute to all the brave men and women at Arlington National Cemetery; and the classic march America Exultant. The Symphonic Band will be performing a new work based on the Peter Pan prequel - Peter and the Starcatcher called Starcatchers by Nathan Daugherty.

### **Stanford Archery Private Lessons**

Sundays (2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 3/5, 3/12), 11am-1pm

Stanford Archery Range (Intersection of Serra St. & El Camino Real)

The Stanford Archery Team coaches private lessons (up to 3 students per coach) for students ages 9 and up. Team members all have at least a Level 1 Coaching Certification from the USA Archery Organization. Open to beginners and no equipment necessary -- we provide it for you! Email Sarah Hay, Stanford Archery Community Programs Director ([stanfordarchery@stanford.edu](mailto:stanfordarchery@stanford.edu)) for more info or visit our webpage at [archery.stanford.edu/lessons](http://archery.stanford.edu/lessons).

### **The 2nd Annual Palo Alto Swing Dance: A Gunn HS Music Fundraiser**

Sat, Feb 25, 6:30-9PM, Terman Cafe, Terman Middle School, Palo Alto

Adults 18 and over are invited to have a fun night out at the 2nd Annual Palo Alto Swing Dance, a fundraiser for the Gunn High School Music Department. Live music will be provided by the Gunn jazz bands. Each ticket includes swing dance lessons, light food, and non-alcoholic drinks throughout the evening. Multiple ticket options are available. Tickets & information can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-2nd-annual-palo-alto-swing-dance-tickets-30991944741> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1362882227066048/>

Contact Keith Hunter ([khunter@pausd.org](mailto:khunter@pausd.org)) if you have any questions.

### **Violin Masterclass with Concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra, David Kim**

Fri, Feb 3, 7PM

Tateuchi Hall at the Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View

Free event! Distinguished musician and educator David Kim, of the Philadelphia Orchestra, will conduct a violin masterclass on Feb. 3. Mr. Kim started playing the violin at the age of three, began studies with the famed pedagogue Dorothy DeLay at the age of eight, and later received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School. As a highly sought-after pedagogue, Mr. Kim has presented masterclasses at schools and institutions such as Juilliard, the New World Symphony in Miami, Yale, the Korean National University of Arts, and universities and colleges across the United States. The masterclass will feature five ECYS Senior Symphony violinists. Enjoy the FREE performance and observe a master teacher at work as he helps the students polish their pieces. For more information, call ECYS at 650-213-7111 or [visit www.ecys.org](http://www.ecys.org).

### **Tickets Now Available for Anne Lamott**

Sat ,Mar 4, 9:30am-12:30PM, Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University, Palo Alto

Join us in conversation with award-winning author Anne Lamott. Tickets on sale now for the 2017 Mothers Symposium, a morning retreat for mothers with children of all ages to reflect on the profound undertaking of motherhood. Special Early Bird pricing: "Bring a Friend" and save \$20 when you buy two tickets. Co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Council of PTAs. For tickets and information visit <http://www.motherssymposium.org/>

### **Blind Date w/a Book (Palo Alto Library Event)**

Month of February, Teen Zone, Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Rd

If your blind date with a book doesn't work out, then check out a new one. No hurt feelings! Review your book date for a chance to win prizes.

### **Anti/Valentine Party (Palo Alto Library Event)**

Tue, Feb 7, 4:30 p.m. Midtown Room, Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Rd

Join us for lit up cards, button making, pencil duct tape roses, contests, and chocolate! Whether you loathe the holiday or not, there is something for you to make for everyone. Registration required.

### **Camp MAC**

Mon, Jul 31 - Fri, Aug 8, Palo Alto High School, 50 Embarcadero Road, 94301

For rising 8th and 9th graders. An opportunity to give your child an introduction to journalism and advance his or her writing skills by signing him or her up for Camp MAC, a five-day summer camp held at the state-of-the-art Media Arts Center at Palo Alto High School! All proceeds of the camp go to support Paly's Media Arts program. Camp MAC is taught exclusively by student journalists from Paly's award-winning publications. Campers will write news stories, sports features and food reviews, as well as learn 21st century journalism skills like video broadcasting. At the end of the week they will work with their counselors to make their own printed publication! Early bird ends March 1, so sign up now! Signups, prices and more information at <http://paly.io/campmac>!

## **Paly Speech and Debate Summer Camp**

Session 1: June 13-17; Session 2: July 31-Aug 4

The Paly Speech and Debate camp centers around providing students with an introduction to speech and debate. The goal of our camp is to prepare students for competition in these activities once they go to high school. On top of that, speech and debate are both life skills as they teach students to express themselves and be more articulate. Second year campers have the opportunity to be placed in a more advanced classroom setting, while first year campers will be given more of an introduction to speech and debate. To register go to: [pasdc.weebly.com](http://pasdc.weebly.com)

## **Survey of Graduates of Gunn High School**

The survey will end February 1.

A Gunn High School students conducting a research project (via survey) which focuses on the life trajectories of Palo Alto graduates between the years 2004 and 2014. To see or complete the survey go to survey: <http://psnpaloalto.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ad6a7bca6265d8553ffcf6de9&id=c2cd120472&e=cf8429bcbb>

## **Attendance Procedure for Student Out of School Early!**

Health Appointments- Parents should make every effort to schedule appointments outside of school hours. However, if not possible, parents are urged to consider varying the times of day during which health appointments are made in order to avoid missing the same class consistently. If a student must leave during the day for any reason please either call (650-856-5179) or email the [Attendance Office](#) the day before the scheduled appointment, or before first period on the day of the requested early dismissal. **Please note that messages must originate from the parent email address on record in Infinite Campus.** The student will then receive a "Permit to Leave" pass and meet you in the Attendance Office at the designated time. If a student returns to school the same day, they are required to report to the Attendance Office before returning to class to provide verification of the health visit.

[Jamey Boccio](#), Attendance Secretary, 650-856-5179

## **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

## JLS eNews Publication Guideline

If you want to publish an announcement relevant to JLS, send an email to [JLS.eneews@gmail.com](mailto:JLS.eneews@gmail.com). JLS eNews is a publication of the JLS PTA. 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. Announcements relevant to other schools in the PAUSD district can be sent to [eneews@palooaltopta.org](mailto:eneews@palooaltopta.org). For more detail, please click [here](#).

### 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 Sarma

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

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Scott D. Thomas (650) 440-0928 (cell)