



JLS PTA eNews

January 10, 2021

JLS News

Important Dates in January

- Jan 13- Principal- Parent Coffee, 8:30 AM
- Jan 14- Connections Board Meeting
- Jan 18- MLK Day, No School
- Jan 19- PTA General Meeting, 8:30 AM
- Jan 25- Site Council Meeting, 3:45 PM
- Jan 28- Connections Parent Coffee



Principal Parent Coffee Wednesday, January 13, 8:30 am-9:20 am

Welcome back! On Wednesday, January 13, the JLS Admin Team will present some general updates regarding Second Semester and answer questions you might have. Please use the following Zoom Link to join our conversation: <https://pausd.zoom.us/j/99873767585>
Please mark your calendars for future Principal Chats on specific topics:

- Wednesday, January 20: MDTP Math Assessment
- Wednesday, January 27: AIB Literacy Assessment
- Wednesday, February 3: Transition to 2021-22 School Year

Supporting Students to Understand January 6 Washington DC Events

The JLS staff and I are saddened by yesterday's events in Washington DC. Our Democracy is being tested. Our nation is facing some harsh realities that have been building for a long time. Despite the disruption and distraction, the JLS staff team remains resolute in providing safe and engaging spaces for our students so that we all can begin the second semester of Distance Learning as smoothly as possible while helping everyone digest, reflect and understand the events which took place yesterday on Capitol Hill.

I wanted you to know that our teachers, especially our History and Social Studies teachers, met yesterday afternoon to coordinate ways of supporting our students' understanding of this historical moment.

Today, our sixth and seventh-grade teachers acknowledged the events that took place yesterday and may have had a discussion based on the questions that surfaced from students, and our eighth-grade teachers (teaching US History) led classes through some of the facts of yesterday's events and have clarified some of the vocabulary terms. At this point, our eighth-grade teachers plan to dive deeper into the sequence of events of yesterday, as well as other events that follow, linking them to our eighth-grade History and Social Studies standards.

Through all of our class meetings, JLS teachers aim to maintain a calm, steady, and non-biased demeanor. We are committed to providing a safe space for students to communicate what they have seen, heard, and are feeling. We also acknowledge that students may not be interested or aware of these events, and that is okay too.

If you are looking for resources to learn more about how to support your child's processing of our country's current events, please see the attached Denver Post article, [How To Talk To Your Kids About the Violence at the US Capitol](#), as well as the links below. I hope you find them helpful.

- Ed Week Article: [Caring for Students in the Wake of a Traumatic News Event](#)
- PBS News Hour Extra: [Three Ways to Teach the Insurrection at the US Capitol](#)
- CNN 10: a ten-minute summary of news around the world, [January 7, 2021](#)

Also, here are some recommendations to consider when talking with your child(ren) from our School Psychologist, Megan Warter:

- If it comes up, ask your child to share what they know about the situation.
- Let your child ask questions and share their feelings, concerns, and worries.
- Listen with care and acknowledge how your child feels.
- Answer questions with honesty and with content that is developmentally age-appropriate.
- If needed, provide your child with reassurance.
- Limit exposure to media

Keeping life as routine as possible is important for children during times like these. Please know that if you need help, or if you notice that your child could benefit from talking to someone, you are invited to reach out to any member of our team. Our grade level Counselor and Administrator contact information is below.

Take care,

Chris Grierson, JLS Principal (cgrierson@pausd.org)

JLS Contact Information:

6th Grade Counselor - Arvind Arya, aarya@pausd.org

6th Grade Assistant Principal - Amy Sheward, asheward@pausd.org

7th Grade Counselor - Alexandria (Alex) Osornia, aosornia@pausd.org

7th Grade Assistant Principal - Adam Nelson, anelson@pausd.org

8th Grade Counselor - Ellie Messinger-Adams, emessingeradams@pausd.org

8th Grade Dean of Students - Hanisi Accetta, haccetta@pausd.org

JLS School Psychologist - Megan Warter, mwarter@pausd.org

[Return to Learn Message from Principal Grierson](#)

Second Semester Schedules are now available. As was true of our Fall semester, due to the complexities with distance learning and schedule balancing, there will not be an elective change window for the Spring semester. If you discover an error in your student's schedule, for example, your student is missing a PE class, having a repeated class or a blank period line, please contact your grade level counselor via email. All of the JLS elective teachers are dedicated to creating programs that are fun and enjoyable during distance learning. We hope your student sees their elective classes as opportunities to captivate their interests, as well as provide relaxation and reduce stress. We hope that your student will enjoy their new electives in the second semester.

First Semester Grades: JLS teachers have been working to enter grades into Infinite Campus for students and families to view by the end of the day on Monday, January 11, 2021. If you have questions about any of the grade marks that your student receives, please contact their teacher directly. For information about the Infinite Campus system, please visit the [PAUSD help page](#).

Please Note: Tentative date for next Materials Distribution is Friday February 5, 2021.

[Positive Parenting: Young Children Adapting to COVID](#)
[Thurs, Jan 28, 7:00pm - 8:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting:](#)

<https://pausd.zoom.us/j/98433958329?pwd=NHdtRVZ5aUc5MVFmaHlkM3AybXpQQT09>

Meeting ID: 984 3395 8329 / Passcode: CASSY

PIE and CASSY are pleased to present an evening about strength and resilience in young children. Learn how adaptable your children are and how they have been coping through the pandemic. Find out how resourceful and resilient YOU are! Gain new skills to encourage them to be more flexible in this ever-changing environment. For parents of children from preschool to 1st grade.

[From Principal Grierson](#)

[Principal Grierson's Weekly messages](#)

Palo Alto PTA Council News

Happy New Year from the Palo Alto PTA Council.

Congratulations we made it to 2021! We thank our families, volunteers, staff and community partners for your continued support and resilience during an unfathomable year of challenges and difficult choices made on behalf of our children and youth. We take this opportunity to start fresh and wish every family a year filled with new beginnings, health and joy.

HEALTH & WELLNESS - New

California State PTA COVID-19 Resources: <https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/coronavirus-information>

Free COVID-19 Testing in Palo Alto

https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/services/public_safety/plans_and_information/coronavirus/testing.asp

Mandatory Directive on Travel & Quarantine

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/travel-directive.aspx>

Travel is discouraged, especially for non-essential purposes. Travel for leisure or for non-essential business is strongly discouraged and should be postponed until after the current surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations subsides.

Travel involves mixing between regions and households, and because so many areas of the State and United States are also currently experiencing significant surges in COVID-19 cases, travel is discouraged and should be minimized.

Mandatory Quarantine after Long-Distance Travel into Santa Clara County

All persons traveling into Santa Clara County, whether by air, car, train, or any other means, directly or indirectly from a point of origin greater than 150 miles from the County's borders must quarantine for 10 days upon arrival.

More Family Resources here: [Health Wellness Updates /Resources Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#):

[Stress and Coping](#)

[Grief and Loss](#)

[Helping Children Cope](#)

[Support for Teens and Young Adults](#)

Community News

2021 Palo Alto Speech and Debate Camp Online

June 7-11 and June 14-18, Speech from 10:00 AM-12 Noon, Debate from 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Registration for the seventeenth annual 2021 Palo Alto Speech and Debate Camp (PASDC) will be open on Dec 1st, 2021. Taught by Palo Alto's nationally ranked high school Speech and Debate team, our 4:1 student-to-counselor ratio provides students with individualized attention and support. PASDC's basic and advanced programs offer customized curriculum for campers of all experience levels and prepare students for high school level competition. To ensure the safety of our campers, we will be planning for a full virtual camp like the previous year, with counselors who are experienced with the online platform. Please visit our website or contact palyspeechanddebate@gmail.com to learn more about the program.

Please click [here](#) for Community News

Quick Links

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[Attendance Procedure](#)
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[Safe Routes to School](#)
[Palo Alto Bike Registration](#)



eNews Publication Guidelines

JLS eNews is a publication of the JLS PTA. [Previous editions](#) and [Publication Guidelines](#) can be found at the JLS PTA website. If you have any questions or would like to make a submission, please contact [eNews editor Anjani Sarma](#).