

The Poquessing Times

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2016

National Junior Honor Society

By Madison Kusienski
Grade 8

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is back and in full swing! Officers have been selected and they are as follows...

President: Tommy Stacherski
Vice President: Marie Nolen
Secretary: Evanna Kujdych
Treasurer: Shqyi Dogjani



Congratulations to all selected officers! This year, NJHS will work hard to better the community with events like the annual penny drive and flapjack fundraiser. The meetings are held once every month. Thank you Mrs. Glaser for being such a wonderful advisor. Let's make this year a great year in NJHS.



Student Council

By Sylvie Colon
Grade 6

Do you ever wonder who organizes dances and other events? That club is Student Council. They meet on Mondays from 3:00-4:05 p.m. in Room 109. They are always accepting new members so before you miss out on organizing our first event, talk to Mr. Barnes about joining this club.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers for the 2016-2017 school year:

President: Alex Crueru
Vice President: Emme Oliver
Secretary: Brianna Fallon
Treasure: Grace Gonglik

Our first event of the year is the Halloween dance. Come see for yourself and participate in student council.



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A Look Forward

- October 19th - Magazine Drive Limo Lunch & Show
- October 19th - 8th Grade Tech School Assembly
- October 20th - Rachel's Challenge Assembly
- October 27th - Halloween Dance - 5th grade
- October 28th - Band at Ferderbar's Halloween Parade
- October 28th - Halloween Dance-6th, 7th and 8th

Student Council



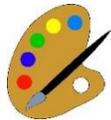
Student Council members helping with a holiday food drive last year. This is just one of the group's many community service events.



Students enjoying Prison Ball which is just one of the fun Student Council activities.

Poquessing's Art Club

By Alyssa Rokhvarg
Grade 6



It's a new school year at Poquessing Middle School and the clubs are just starting! Poquessing offers a variety of clubs, including the art club. In the art club you can create master pieces through drawing, painting, and sculpting. It is open to 5th and 6th grade students and meets in Room 109 on select Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining the art club, come down to Room 109 and get your permission slip.

Rubik Cube Master!

Devin Sinn (7th Grade) can solve the extreme dodecagon (12 sided) Rubik Cube in 8 minutes and 17 seconds!



DO YOU LIKE HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT? THEN ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB IS FOR YOU!

By Jessica Urwiler
Grade 7

Last year, we planted flowers outside Poquessing, made bird feeders for our backyards, donated towels and food to the animals at the Women's Humane Society, and much more! Our first Environmental Club meeting was Wednesday, October 5th. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting year helping our local environment, people, and animals in our community. All grades are welcome to join the Environmental Club GREEN TEAM Wednesday, October 19th from 3-4 in room 104. See Mrs. Scott in 104 if you want to get your permission form.

If you need any other information, please ask Mrs. Scott in room 104. We hope to see you there!



Welcome to Poquessing's Interact Club!

We meet in Room 109 every Monday before school at 7:25 a.m.

By Sylvie Colon
Grade 6

If you want to help the community, then Interact is the club for you. They meet on Monday mornings at 7:25 a.m. in Room 109. Mr. Barnes is the advisor of this club as well as Student Council and Debate. The office is almost filled with the newly elected President, Julie Egan, Vice President, Janice Augustine, and secretary, Sylvie Colon. They are still looking for a treasurer so remember to write your speeches. The club is always accepting new members so be sure to join as soon as possible!

THE CLUB'S GUIDE: THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Choir: All You Need to Know.

By Jessica Urwiler

Grade 7



All of the choirs here in Poquessing are phenomenal. 5th grade choir, 6th grade choir, Concert Choir, and Select Choir. We are so lucky here at Poquessing to have hard-working choir directors who care for us all. They put all of their time and effort into helping us learn our music and making sure we have a great music experience. All of the students involved in choir put time and effort into their work and their concerts turn out beautifully. Already, all of the groups have had rehearsals and are off to a great start! This year, the choir has some wonderful surprises in store for you all.

Even though 5th grade just came to our school last year, they have already shown us how amazing they are. This year, they rehearse during W.I.N., and they are working hard to learn and practice songs that their director gives them. They are young but will definitely do a wonderful job in their first concerts as Poquessing students!

6th graders who are involved in 6th grade choir are getting up early every Thursday morning and going into school at 7 A.M. They are learning and working hard, just like all of the other choirs. The 6th graders are excited for their concerts coming up in December!

Concert Choir is made up of 7th and 8th graders, and we rehearse Tuesday mornings at 7 A.M. The 7th and 8th graders both make up a fairly large choir, so we have to practice extra hard! So far we have had three productive rehearsals and have improved very much since day one. We are all excited to have you hear our songs that we are working very hard on!

Select Choir is a choir that is by audition only. We are made up 5th through 8th graders and all together have about 35 people. We rehearse Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30, and sometimes Thursdays and Wednesdays from 3pm to 5pm. During the past three weeks, we have had sectionals, which is every section rehearsing by itself. Baritones, Altos and Sopranos all got individual rehearsals so that we can improve ourselves and learn deeper in the music. Everyone in this Select Choir, including me, is excited for you hear us perform our songs selected by Mr. Leigh, our Select Choir director.

Poquessing is a wonderful school. We have a truly amazing music program, and all of the kids here involved in choir are working hard for you all to hear us at our upcoming concerts. Stay tuned for the concert dates so that you can hear all of the hard work that we've put into our songs!



READING OLYMPICS

JOIN READING OLYMPICS!

By Yuliya Liberman

Grade 7

The start of a new season is always exciting. New people, new books, and high hopes for the competition. Join the club! See Mr. Lorence if you are interested!

How to Start Off the School Year

By Yuliya Liberman

Grade 7



The First Impression

The first months of school can be stressful. Making a good first impression is key to success in middle school. Here is a short and simple guide on starting of the year well.

Be Confident

Confidence is really important and even though it may seem like an overused phrase- be confident. A teacher or peer will easily notice if you're not sure of yourself, you have to own it and you will become a role model for others. Know what you're capable of and have confidence in your abilities.

Be Yourself

Always stay true to yourself and don't try to be someone else. The teachers and students want to get to know you, not someone you're really not. So always be you.

Relax

Remember, this is everyone's first few months too! They're going through the same thing, so just chill out. By the end of October, you will be fine; everything will be under control.

CHEERLEADING

By: Madison Kusienki
Grade 8

Do you think Cheerleading is a sport? By definition a sport is an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment. So, if you still think cheerleading isn't a sport, well think again!

Here at Poquessing, our cheer team works hard each day to perform high level difficulty routines. We are currently working to prepare for the night game, Poquessing vs. Maple Point on October 10.

Together as a team, we strive for perfection in everything we do. The captains for this year's team are Brianna Carlucci, Angeleah D'Ambrosia, and Isabella Ramos.

We cheer for football and basketball games during the fall and winter. In the spring we participate in a cheerleading competition. Last year, we won and are now the reigning champions. So expect to see a lot from this top notch team!



7th Grade Field Hockey

Seventh grade field hockey has started off the season strong. When asked about the team, Coach Their said, "The 7th grade field hockey team is always a group of inexperienced girls because there aren't any feeder programs for the sport. With that being said, the girls are working hard to master the basics of the sport. They're beginning to gel together as a team as they learn the positions and discover where they play best. I look forward to the team improving and having an enjoyable season."



8th Grade Field Hockey

By Divya Asiedu-Danquah
Grade 8

Recently, Poquessing's field hockey team played an exciting game against William Penn Middle School-The Falcons. Last year they won the game, but this year's game was a tough loss. Currently, the 8th grade field hockey record is 1-1-1. One win against Shafer, one tie against Snyder and this loss against William Penn. The team captains are Kylie Siwek, Julianna Hughes, and Rachel Walsh.

When asked about the team, Coach Zampirri said, "As a whole, the team is made up of returning and new players. The returning players have been excellent leaders for all of our new team members. The beginning of the season is always a learning experience as the girls work to make new bonds on and off the field. I have seen extensive improvements from Game 1 to Game 3. The girls continue to have a positive attitude, and we look forward to a successful season."

Wrestling

By Pearl Smith
Grade 6



Wrestling is a fun, competitive way kids can wrestle at school with friends. There are 18 different weight classes. That is a lot of kids for Mr. Passman, the head coach, to handle! To help him, Assistant Coaches Mr. Pecuch and Mr. Thier are there. The supportive team has historically had strong students. Hopefully, some of their star players will return this year.

All of the players benefit from their intense practices. Last year, they won 2nd out of 22 teams in Bucks County. They all wrestled strong and hard and definitely deserved it. The crazy thing – most of the wrestlers never wrestled before middle school! Anyone can be on the team. Just try hard and you'll succeed. See Mr. Passman if you are interested in joining the wrestling team this year.

Poquessing Football

By Diana Korposh
Grade 7

If you like to play hard, sweat, and just plain out have a whole bunch of free time, football is a great sport here at Poquessing. It's definitely one that students should join. "Football is an amazing sport. It makes you physically fit, it helps you with making new friends and meeting new people, and it can help motivate you to win something," stated Gavin O'Connor, 7th grade.

One of the best feelings a football player can have is being on the field with all your teammates, all playing for one purpose...winning. But winning isn't the only good feeling you will have if you join a football team at Poquessing. You will also feel happy and proud of yourself the second you score a touchdown. At Poquessing, we have heavyweight and lightweight teams with great coaches such as Mr. Cimino and Mr. Norton. Join the Poquessing football team and I promise you, you won't regret it. "You're welcomed to the team!" Says Gavin.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Player being interviewed: Gavin O'Connor

Heavyweight coaches: Cimino, Moser

Lightweight coaches: Pendergast, Norton

Our chat:

What inspired you to play football?

"Both of my brothers played and it's an amazing physical sport."

How has football made an influence in your everyday life?

"It made me a better athlete, conditioned me to be fit, and it has given me some team unity playing alongside what I would call my brothers."

Would you encourage other students to play football?

"I would encourage everyone to play football!"

What "words of wisdom" do you have for younger kids who would like to play football in 7th grade?

"Everyone should try it. And, hey, if you're not the most athletic kid out there, that doesn't make a difference. You're welcomed to the team!"

Future Home Games:

8th Grade - 10/20

8th Grade - 10/24

7th Grade - 10/25

7th Grade - 10/28

7th Grade - 11/1

8th Grade - 11/3

7th Grade - 11/9

7th Grade - 11/15



Orchestra

By Pearl Smith
Grade 6

The strings were dancing as the skinny bow strummed against them. The extraordinary soloist was playing an original piece. Orchestra is a great and easy way to learn a string instrument at school. In orchestra, students take lessons from the beloved teacher Ms. Oksyuk. There are many varieties of instruments to suit a variety of musical tastes. The orchestra offers instruments from violins to violas to cellos to bases. Getting an instrument is easy. You may rent from Music and Arts or have your own instrument.

During lessons students learn amazing songs to perform and impress their family and friends. The first concert is the Holiday Concert in December. The last concert is in the spring towards the end of the year. Students can also participate in other activities during the year. One of them is coming up soon – String Day. Students have fun taking part in learning the songs and performing. It is a great experience. If you want more information, see Ms. Oksyuk. If you enjoy our music think about joining our amazing orchestra and playing your heart out!

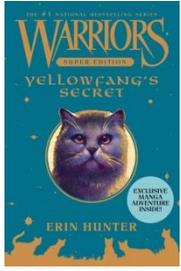
Soccer



By Nicole Simonyan
Grade 8

The soccer season is well underway! The 8th grade soccer team's record so far is 1 win, 1 loss, and 1 tie. Over the last 25 years, the team had 151 wins, 78 losses, and 14 ties. Coach Palkoviks commented about this "rambunctious" team, "The 8th grade soccer team has shown tremendous improvement the first half of the season. Nick Cifaldi is leading the team in goals while Justin Lykenov anchors a strong defense. Kaleb Lowry and Nina Mason are strong midfielders who help control the tempo. Mike Darigo is great in goal."

The seventh grade soccer team has also been practicing hard on the field each day. Some of the key players are Frankie Britsch, Richie Faul, Cayla Lui, Tyler Gleisberg, and Josh Hamilton. When Coach Mann was asked about the team, she stated, "The 7th grade soccer team faces difficult opponents in our league, but we go to work every afternoon willing to learn and willing to give it everything we have. Most importantly, we play with Poquessing pride...and I'm proud to be their coach." We look forward to an exciting, successful ending to the season for both teams.



BOOK CHAT

YELLOWFANG'S SECRET

By Skyler Peraria
Grade 5

Yellowfang's Secret is a super edition (a book that doesn't follow the main plot of a series, but is still in the series) in the book series Warriors. Kate Cary, Cherith Baldry, Tui Sutherland, Gillian Philip, Inbali Iserles, and Victoria Holmes all go under a fake name, Erin Hunter, and work on this series as a group. There are currently 65 books in total.

Yes, Yellowfang is a cat. It sounds ridiculous, a book series about cats. But, it turns out to be a very well-written and enjoyable series. This book follows Yellowfang from birth to a time around her death. After the events in this book, she falls into the mainplot.

Yellowkit is very excited to begin her training as an apprentice and get her apprentice name, Yellowpaw. When cats move up in rank in their clan, their names change. When she finally finishes her training, strange things start to happen to her. After a bottle, she feels pain, even if she isn't hurt. She believes this is normal until she talks to the medicine cat of her clan who heals other cats like a doctor. Yellowpaw finds out that she has amazing power!

Any animal lover will really enjoy this book. If you do read the series, read it in order. It makes the books much easier to understand.

Spoiler Alert! If you have not read the book, stop reading here! You have been warned!

After becoming a medicine cat, Yellowfang grows old. One day, her mother's second litter of kittens go missing. Yellowfang goes looking for her kittens and finds them near a fox. The fox runs away soon after she spots him. When her mother comes back with the leader of their clan, he accuses Yellowfang of killing them in front of her clan. Then, her leader banishes her from her clan.

Harry Potter: The Cursed Child

By Hannah Klepesky

Grade 7

Well, here it is, the eighth installment of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series. There's been so much excitement and advertising for the new book, but is it all just smoke and mirrors? Fans may be excited that we finally have a new book in the series, but is their judgement clouded with excitement?

For those who don't know, the book is not in fact a novel, but a script for "The Cursed Child" play. Also, it wasn't even written by J.K. Rowling; however, J.K. did edit the script to fit her liking. The script was written by Jack Thorne and John Tiffany, two very respected theatre visionaries.

In the book many characters don't live up to what we thought it would be. Where we left off, it was thought that the golden trio became Aurors; however, that's not how it goes in this story. The book starts off with Hermione being the Minister for Magic, Ron now manages Weasley's Wizard Wheezes (founded by his twin brothers), meanwhile Harry is the Head of Magical Law Enforcement.

Something the fans definitely weren't expecting was the unlikely turn of events involving Albus Potter and Scorpius Malfoy. In their first year, the pair became instant friends on the train to Hogwarts; while afterwards, the two were both sorted into the same house. The book introduces characters that we never really got to know before. Such as Albus Potter, Scorpius Malfoy, Rose Granger-Weasley, Lily Potter, and James Potter. We learn more about the relationships they have with each other, and their feelings towards some of the characters. These are also some of the characters we don't get to see too much of. The characters are mentioned and have a few scenes, but they don't get nearly as much attention as Albus, Scorpius, or other characters get.

The book takes many twists and turns, along with use (and misuse) of dangerous magical items that are otherwise not for children. Objects such as time turners, polyjuice potion, and some spells that wouldn't be advised for underage wizards and witches. Probably the most shocking news is the mention of a new character: Delphi. Fans are mostly shocked, because it's rare that J.K. incorporates new characters into the story, let alone one that has much to do with the plot.

Meanwhile a popular and widespread rumor has also been going around about Voldemort having a child, and it has been particularly aimed at Scorpius Malfoy.

So overall, is this a story worth reading? If you're a fan of the Harry Potter Series books 1-7, then this book might not be your favorite. The characters aren't really portrayed as well as they are in books 1-7, and the storyline kind of runs off the rails a bit. However, if you're looking for one last hurrah to complete the series, then you've found it.



THE RED QUEEN

By Divya Asiedu-Danquah
Grade 8



Red Queen is a thrilling fantasy novel filled with action and amazing characters. In a world divided by blood color, Mare, a red blooded girl, discovers that her blood is not what it seems. Silver blooded characters are considered gods due to their special abilities; they are both strong and beautiful. They seem invincible. Unlike the silver blooded characters, red bloods live in captivity and poverty. They are powerless and have no say in the government. They are considered powerless. They obey the silver-blooded king and live in fear of silver blooded people.

Mare finds herself in a huge dilemma; will she betray her own blood? Or, will she fight? Characters will have to sacrifice their lives for a war that seems impossible to fight. This book comes highly recommended!

The Newspaper is Back!

By Yuliya Liberman
Grade 7

The newspaper is back! In this article you will get to know some of our authors- Jessica Urwiler, Diana Korposh, and Yuliya Liberman.

Our Staff

Jess writes to inspire others and enjoys it very much. She wants to write about environmental club and select choir. Jessica works hard and loves that people get to see her work.

Diana loves to write because it lets her express herself without judgement. She will write about sports and music for the newspaper. Diana's writes because she knows she's doing something good for the school and community.

Yuliya wants to be a journalist. She loves to write and will be doing teacher interviews and updates on Reading Olympics. Writing for the Poquessing Times is really exciting for her and she loves writing about events in her school.

And finally -drumroll please- Mrs. Marte!!! She's the one who puts the whole newspaper together and tells us what articles to write. Her favorite section of the newspaper is Special Interest. Mrs. Marte wants students to know that anyone can join.

More Info

The newspaper will come out at least four times a year and will have about 10 pages. Everyone will receive a digital copy and there will be paper copies. Thanks for reading!

5th Grade Survival Tips!

By Sylvianna Colon
Grade 6

Many 5th graders are still confused about middle school. I know it could be a little overwhelming, but that is why I am here: to give tips on how to survive middle school.

How can I not be late for class?	Group all of your books that you need until the next locker break so you don't have to go rooting through your locker to find your books for the first few periods.
How do you get good grades?	All I have to say is STUDY. Look over your notes from your classes once a week. If you have a test, quiz, or assessment, then study those notes every day for a week before the test.
Can you join any clubs in 5th grade?	There are a ton of clubs for a 5th grader to join! For example: musical, chorus, interact, newspaper, homework club, and a whole lot more!
Can a 5th grader join the musical?	Of course! The musical is open to every Poquessing Middle School student.
How do I get homework help?	Teachers offer clinic every Tuesday and Thursday morning. Talk to your teacher about it. There is also homework help club on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school until 4:05pm.
Is middle school fun?	Middle school is super fun! With the musical and clubs the different opportunities are endless!
Does it get any easier?	Unfortunately, school doesn't seem to get any easier. If you keep studying and have a positive attitude, it might become easier.

Would You Rather

By: Jessica Urwiler

Would you rather...	Be allergic to chocolate	or	Be allergic to ice cream
Would you rather...	Have feathers all over your body	or	Have fur all over your body
Would you rather...	Be the main character in a really bad movie	or	Be a smaller character in a really good movie
Would you rather...	Have to waddle wherever you go	or	Have to hop wherever you go
Would you rather...	Be able to be invisible	or	Be able to fly
Would you rather...	Only wear green clothes	or	Only wear blue clothes
Would you rather...	Spend your Saturday doing community service	or	Spend your Saturday at your arch enemy's house
Would you rather...	Eat a basket of worms	or	Eat a basket of spiders
Would you rather...	Climb Mount Everest	or	Swim along the Mississippi River
Would you rather...	Have no internet	or	Have no phone

Make Your Own Snow Globe

By Janice Augustine

Grade 7

You Need:

Glass jar with lid

Plastic figurines

Hot glue

Water

Glitter

Glycerin

How To:

1. Glue your figurines to the inside lid of the jar. Be sure your figurines are not taller than the jar and that you leave enough space at the edges for the jar to screw back on.
2. Fill the jar with water up to the top of the jar. Add a half teaspoon of glycerin and a teaspoon of glitter.
3. Screw the lid back on to the jar and shake it up to watch it snow!
4. Enjoy!

