

# The Puma Blast

Vol. 2, Issue 6: Oct 23-27, 2017



**Selfie of the Week**  
Families, in light of the recent events, the 'Selfie of the Week' feature for this week feels inappropriate. The feature will be back next week, and our work toward unity and inclusivity will be an ongoing focus.

## SPMS Administration

Thomas McAuley  
Principal

Meagan Tenia  
Associate Principal

Lindsay Ingram  
Assistant Principal

Doug Wright  
Administrative Aide

Jerome Fleming  
Administrative Aide

Rob Doolidge  
Administrative Aide

Rob Przybylski  
Administrative Aide



## Yearbook Photos



As a reminder, student Yearbook photographs will be taken this week on Wednesday and Thursday. Photographs will be taken during students' gym classes.



Short Pump Middle School  
4701 Pouncey Tract Rd  
Glen Allen, VA 23059  
(804)360-0800



## Calling All Singers, Actors, and Dancers!



*Music Man Jr.* auditions will be held on Thursday and Friday, November 2 and 3 from 3:30-5:30 in the Auditorium. Please pick up a packet outside of Mrs. Berry's room (307) for more information. Audition songs and a character breakdown can be found at [tinyurl.com/SPMSMusicMan](http://tinyurl.com/SPMSMusicMan). The actual performance dates are February 23 and 24, 2018. Hope to see you at auditions!



WIN

**\$5,000**

Worth of Books for SPMS!!



Go to [contest.collectivegoods.com](http://contest.collectivegoods.com) to enter. Be sure to select Short Pump Middle School as the location. Contest ends November 5 so enter TODAY!! The more people that enter, the better our chances are of winning!!! Thank you for your support of the SPMS Library!

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## Rolling Announcements

See what your students see on our rolling announcements shown everyday all day on our cafeteria monitors. It includes very useful and important information.

These update often, so check them daily.

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/110k\\_qwPh2AauhkZ8idwqQjYKiS68ZrFsrADldbelS-E/pub?start=true&loop=true&delayms=15000](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/110k_qwPh2AauhkZ8idwqQjYKiS68ZrFsrADldbelS-E/pub?start=true&loop=true&delayms=15000)

## HCPS College and Career Night

Henrico County's College and Career Night will be held at Henrico High School on November 1st, 2017 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.



## Principal Advisory Committee

Once a month during lunch (last Monday of the month) Mr. McAuley will be meeting with student representatives (8-10) of each grade level. This will be an opportunity for students to discuss important topics such as inclusion, bullying, homework, athletics, school events, and the overall culture and climate of SPMS. There are NO prerequisites to attend; however, a willingness to share opinions and to listen to the ideas of others in a respectful manner is required. If a student is interested in being a part of this leadership PACK, they should visit the main office to submit their name with a brief statement to share why they would like to be on the committee. Two slices of pizza and bottled waters will be provided by the school on meeting dates (students are welcome to bring their own food/drink if they prefer).

## Fall Sports

\*All athletic contests begin at 4:45pm

### Tues, Oct 24- AWAY

Boys' Soccer (Opponent & location TBD)  
Girls' Tennis (Opponent & location TBD)  
Girls' Basketball (Opponent & location TBD)

### Thurs, Oct 26

Boys' Soccer (Opponent & location TBD)  
Girls' Tennis (Opponent & location TBD)  
Girls' Basketball (Opponent & location TBD)

**\*\*This week will mark the conclusion of Fall Sports for 2017. All athletic contest venues and opponents are determined by team record and playoff seeding. Please be sure to check the Rolling Announcements for updates to locations of this week's sporting events.**

Thank you for supporting our Pumas!



## Moody Middle International Baccalaureate (I.B.) Program

Thank you for picking up a Moody IB application! Please remember that the completed application (including teacher recommendations) is due to me on or before Monday, November 6, 2017. The writing prompt will be given on November 9th at SPMS from 8:30-10 a.m. in the library. It is your responsibility to give your teachers the recommendation forms. Please fill in the requested information prior to giving the recommendations to your teachers. It is your responsibility to follow-up with your teachers to ensure that they have completed the recommendation and have also turned it in to me.

- Please do not wait until the last minute to give your teacher a recommendation as there are many students asking for recommendations.
- Your application will not be submitted without the teacher recommendations.

Thank you so much! Ms. Riggs

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## From the Clinic...

If your student has emergency medications that are needed at school, such as an Epi Pen or an asthma inhaler, please provide the medication(s) and/or the health action plan(s) to the clinic ASAP. New forms and medicines are needed each school year. Forms for the parent and health care provider to sign can be found in the clinic and at [www.henricoschools.us](http://www.henricoschools.us) under the Health & Safety tab. Please call or stop by the clinic to speak to Nurse Bragg about HCPS medication policies and procedures if you have questions.

## Key Assessment Dates

<u>Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup></u> <i>(test through Grade 8 English classes)</i>	Specialty Center Writing Prompt (Grade 8 only)
<u>Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup></u> <i>(test through 8<sup>th</sup> block, 8<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> block switch)</i>	Writing Benchmark Multiple Choice (Grade 8 only)
Follow a midterm schedule with 90 minute classes <u>December 5<sup>th</sup></u> blocks 1 and 3 <u>December 6<sup>th</sup></u> blocks 5 and 7 <u>December 7<sup>th</sup></u> blocks 2 and 4 <u>December 8<sup>th</sup></u> block 6	Reading, Science, Math, and Social Studies Benchmark

## Maggie L. Walker Governor's School



### **Student/Parent Information Session:**

Nov 13 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, 6:30-8pm

**Application Info** → The process for applying to the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School is transitioning to an online application. The one page application form will be submitted through ZippSlip beginning this year. Students must use their guardian's account to complete the application. If your student receives a letter from their school counselor (Distributed October 10th and 11th) or you have received a School Messenger call or email that they are eligible to apply to MLWGS then they have already been granted access to the ZippSlip application. The ZippSlip application will be available on October 16, 2017. If your student did not receive a letter or you do not see the MLWGS Application as an option when you login to ZippSlip please review the Criteria for Applying document on the web at <http://blogs.henrico.k12.va.us/mlwgs/maggie-l-walker-governor-school/> for further information. If your student does not meet the criteria listed but would like to be considered as an applicant, your student must come to school counseling to discuss this with Mrs. Sharpe. Students wishing to apply that do not meet criteria will be required to write a letter before November 3, 2017. If you feel like your student met the requirements for Governor's School and did not receive a letter, please speak with Mrs. Sharpe. Please call or email Mrs. Sharpe (804-364-0837, [hssharp@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:hssharp@henrico.k12.va.us)) for instructions for accessing ZippSlip if you are unable to log in. **Deadline to complete the online application is December 1, 2017.**

## Box Tops



SPMS Parents & Students please save and share your box tops!

In addition to using the new box top app, don't forget to continue to cut out and save your box tops for the library. Please continue to send them in to the library with your student. Make sure their name is on the envelope or baggie. The money we receive from the box tops is used to purchase books, iPads along with cases and tripod adapters, games, puzzles and other supplies for students to use in the library. Thank you for your support!

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## Specialty Center- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

### **Attention 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:**

Information regarding Specialty Center Information Sessions, Open Houses, and the Application timeline can be found by visiting: <http://henricoschools.us/specialty-centers/>. Applications will be available on November 20, 2017. Applications are due January 12, 2018.

Please contact Mrs. Sharpe at [hssharp@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:hssharp@henrico.k12.va.us) or 804-364-0837 if you have any questions.

## Maggie L. Walker Governor's School- Testing

Students applying to MLWGS are required to attend a testing session from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on January 27, 2018 at Maggie Walker Governor's School, 1000 North Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA 23220. Students unable to attend the January 27th testing session due to school/sports activity or religious reasons will be offered a make-up opportunity based on availability. This make-up test will be held February 13th at MLWGS from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Written permission to attend the make-up test must be submitted in writing by December 8th to the Gifted Specialist, Gifted Education Programs, 3820 Nine Mile Road, Richmond, VA 23223. Note: If a student becomes ill or a family emergency occurs and is unable to attend the testing session on January 27th, the parent must notify the gifted program office no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 29th in order to reschedule testing.

## CodeRVA

Information regarding CodeRVA can be found at: <http://coderva.org/>. CodeRVA applicants should have an interest in and passion for the study of computer science. Individual school divisions may have local requirements. Currently, Henrico County requires their applicants to have a least a C average (2.0 GPA). Application Timeline: the application window for the 2018-2019 school year will open on January 8, 2018 • The application window will close at 11:59 p.m. on February 23, 2018. • Selected students will be notified by email on March 9, 2018. • Selected students that accept the offer to attend must maintain residence in a CodeRVA partnering school division and their eligibility for enrollment in grade 9 during 2018-2019. Open Houses at CodeRVA (2601 Durham Street, Richmond VA 23116) • November 8, 2017, 5 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. (1 hour session) • November 15, 2017, 5 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. (1 hour per session)

## PTSA

Join the PTSA and make a Direct Donation. NEW online membership and donations this year! Please join the PTSA, an organization dedicated to the students of Short Pump Middle School. Did you know PTSA membership is open to SPMS students and families? Student membership is only offered to middle and high school students and is a fantastic way to become involved with the school. And while joining the PTSA, consider a direct donation and help us continue the tradition of NO FUNDRAISERS. Go to <https://member.pta.org/join> today to do both membership and donations. Thank you for your support!

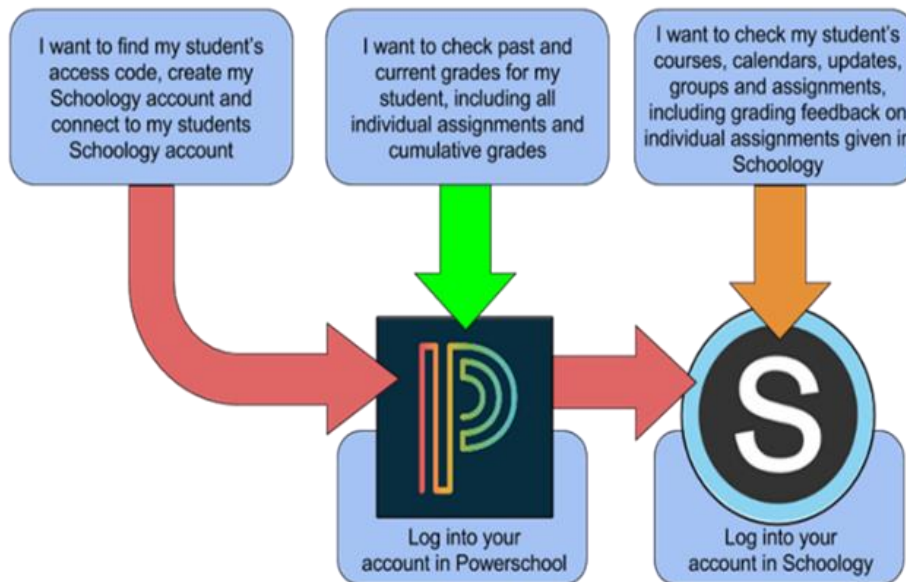
## PTSA Reflections Contest

Each year, students from all over the country submit ideas for the Reflections theme, from which a single theme is chosen. Two years ago, Ben Berselli as a fifth grade Shady Grove student, entered the PTA Reflections theme contest and submitted the "Within Reach" theme. Ben's "Within Reach" theme was selected as this year's nation-wide Reflections theme for this year's Reflections' contest. In addition to being recognized on national PTA publications, Ben received a nominal monetary prize. We are so proud of Ben, and excited that the Pumas have such an inspiring theme to respond to!

## Welcoming New Pumas to Our Pack

Although moving to a new area and school can be an exciting adventure, it can also be a challenging and overwhelming experience and we would like to provide our families with some neighborhood support. The School Counseling team would like to create a pool of people who are willing to help welcome new Puma families to SPMS and to our community. If you are interested in volunteering in this capacity, please complete this form: [www.tinyurl.com/pumawelcome](http://www.tinyurl.com/pumawelcome). We may use the information collected from the form to help match families in similar neighborhoods or with similar backgrounds. By completing the form, you are agreeing to allow the School Counseling team to share your personal contact information with newly enrolled families. Thank you for your willingness to support our Puma family!

### Where do I go as a parent if...



*Thank you for being a valued member of  
Short Pump Middle School*



*Home of the Pumas*