



# The Puma Blast



Short Pump Middle School: The School with P.**R.I.D.E.** and **Heart**  
Vol. 3, Issue 21: February 18-22, 2019



## This Week's Events

- February 18**  
Full Day of School due to December snow days
- February 19**  
Gymnastics @ Oak Knoll, 4:45PM
- February 21**  
Gymnastics vs HCMS at home, 4:45PM
- February 22**  
Unified Basketball vs Holman at home

## Mr. McAuley's Selfie of the Week



Parfois, en cours de français, les élèves deviennent les enseignants.  
The English translation of the above French sentence, 'Sometimes while in French class, the students become the teacher.'  
It's great to see such active learners!

## Looking to the Future

- February 27-Black History Month Program; Book Club Meeting @ 10:55AM
- February 28-Gymnastics @ Stonewall, 4:45PM
- March 1-Winter Pep Rally

## Daily Announcements

Keep up-to-date with the daily school announcements!  
Click [HERE](#) to view them.

## Course Recommendations!

Course recommendations for next year are currently available to review and make requests. The window for reviewing/choosing the courses closes on Friday, February 15! If you haven't reviewed the courses yet, you only have a few days left! Contact your counselor if you aren't able to register for courses prior to the window closing. If courses are not selected by Friday, you may be placed into courses you may not want to take!

Selecting a course does NOT guarantee that you will take that course. Make sure that you also select alternatives (especially important for rising high schoolers!)

See page two of this Puma Blast for more information for rising Deep Run High School students.

## Help Out Our School!

-Link your Kroger Card to SPMS to help SPMS help our students!  
**How to link your Kroger Plus Card:** 1) Visit [www.Kroger.com/CommunityRewards](http://www.Kroger.com/CommunityRewards) and click Sign In. 2) Once logged in, select I'm a Customer/View Details. 3) Search for Short Pump Middle School by name. 4 ) Select Short Pump Middle School and click Enroll.

## Keep It Safe, Pumas!

For the month of February, there will various safety drills, including at least one:  
-Fire Drill  
-Tornado Drill  
-Lockdown Drill

## Congrats to our Teachers!

- Ms. Brizendine-SPMS Teacher of the Year
- Ms. Pennington-SPMS Christie Award Winner
- Mr. Jackson-SPMS New Teacher of the Year

## The Sports Authority

If inclement weather is forecasted, the following link will be updated by 2 P.M. each day:  
<https://tinurl.com/spmssportsupdates>

## Nominate a Teacher!

Short Pump Middle School has so many exceptional teachers that spend their time to build relationships and create just the perfect lesson. Please consider nominating one (or more) for the prestigious R.E.B. award!  
Click on [THIS](#) link for more information and to nominate an exceptional teacher! Nominations end 2/25 @ 5PM!!

## Deep Run Course Overrides

If your parent submits an override form for a class, you MUST stay in the class until the end of the 1st semester at Deep Run before a schedule change will be considered. At that time, a change is contingent on space availability and may affect other classes in your schedule. Parent overrides for AP Environmental Science are not allowed, per Deep Run School Counseling. Overrides must be received by April 26. June 15 is the last day for course request changes. Any changes/overrides requested PRIOR to March 8th will be guaranteed for space. Any changes or overrides requested March 8-April 26 (this is a change from March 1st date previously communicated) will be based on space availability.

## High School Online Health/PE

Interested in ONLINE Health and PE this summer? Act fast! Don't delay! There are limited slots available. Please check out [THIS LINK](#) for more information.

## SPMS Students are Reading Without Walls!!

Following an idea set forth by former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Gene Luen Yang, every SPMS student will be "Reading Without Walls." In English classes this third grading period, students have been charged to find and read books where a major character is different from their own culture, ethnicity, race, or another difference. Culture is defined as the thoughts, customs, traditions, abilities, beliefs, and values which define us.

While students learn through various channels how to combat new situations whenever these situations arrive, the truth is that when they face a new or difficult tasks, often they rely on what they have read and how characters act and react to those situations. Through Reading Without Walls, students will learn about cultures that are different from them; they will also gain invaluable skills to prepare them for real-life situations. Through Reading Without Walls, we are preparing our students for the world that awaits them now and the future so that they will be prepared whatever life throws at our students.



## PTA Corner

- When ordering pizzas, you can also help SPMS PTSA earn money by ordering from Papa Johns and using the promo code SPMS when you check out online.
- To join, volunteer, donate, and more, click [HERE](#).
- Upcoming Spirit Night:
  - [Monday, March 11th BWWings 5-9pm](#) (click on link)
  - [Saturday, March 23rd Skate Nation 2-4pm](#) (click on link)
  - [Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> Mod Pizza 10:30AM-10:00PM](#) (click on link)

## High School Transitions

If you/ your child was absent or did not receive the information from the Deep Run counselors, our school counseling has extra handouts. Please feel free to stop by/ have them stop by school counseling and pick up the handout. Please visit the following [THIS](#) link and [THIS](#) one for more information and important dates!

## Career Fair

Interested in presenting at the SPMS Career Fair? We are looking for parents that are passionate about their career to come present on March 13th. We would LOVE for YOU to be part of making this big event a success! If you are interested or know someone that would be interested in participating, please fill [THIS](#) form out. Contact Ms. Ransom for questions at [mbransom@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:mbransom@henrico.k12.va.us).

## Do YOU Like to Read?

Do you like to read? Are you looking for opportunities to volunteer at your student's school? The library is looking for volunteers to help with shelving books and other projects. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Munson at 804-360-0800. Thanks!

## Great Kindness Challenge

WE WANT YOU to participate in the SPMS Great Kindness Challenge! Let your kind spirit soar by participating in an animal shelter supply drive to support the Richmond SPCA! Donations accepted in School Counseling through 2/22. More info is on Schoology.



## Library News and Notes

- Next Book Club Meeting: February 27 @10:55AM
- Help support your library! Send in your Box Tops for Education to the library or drop them off in the front office. Every one counts. Thank you!!!

