



March 2009 Vol. 15, Issue 4

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## Horticulture's spring flower sale is on

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Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays until the IHS greenhouse empties. Huge cutting geraniums, petunias, impatiens, and vegetables, expertly grown by IHS students.



Kristin Smith, Caitlyn Gordon, Carl Brubach, Amanda Vento, Teacher Ryan McMichael, Courtney Fier

## Unity In Our Community

### Jackson Twp. firefighters take a lesson from students

IHS juniors and seniors are volunteering to teach Jackson firefighter/paramedics how to speak Spanish. These students are members of the IHS Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (Spanish National Honor Society), the only chapter in Stark County. Their vice president, Brennan Hamilton suggested the community service project after giving a speech in which he predicted grand things for the honor society, such as changing our community for the better. Later, Brennan was

See **FIREFIGHTERS**, back page

### Taxpayers to see a 1.6 mill school tax reduction in '09

Based on the Stark County Auditor's collection adjustments, Jackson taxpayers will see a 1.6 mill reduction in their school taxes in 2009. Ohio law (House Bill 920) states that levy and bond issues are voted for a set dollar amount. When additional homes are built, or property values increase, tax rates are rolled back so that the total school tax collected never exceeds the original dollar amount voted by the taxpayers. Even though the cost of doing school business escalates, school funds are frozen unless taxpayers choose to grant an increase. This is why schools continually need to pass levies.

**The levy that passed in February will not be collected until January 2010.**

### Put me on the E-List

If you would like to receive periodic messages from your school district, such as notes from the superintendent, notification of special events, messages from the Board of Education, and electronic copies of Polar Bear Pride, simply e-mail [pblangger@neo.rr.com](mailto:pblangger@neo.rr.com) and say, "Put me on the E-List."

### Jackson applies for International Baccalaureate

Three school districts, Jackson, North Canton, and Perry have come together to make application for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Degree Programme. Leading the charge is Jackson's curriculum director, Linda Salom, who has been

studying the benefits for the past three years.

"We are trying to make something good and positive happen for the area's bright students who sometimes need more challenge," Mrs. Salom said.

IB is a rigorous, two-year curriculum, aimed at juniors and seniors. It is a symbol of academic excellence worldwide.

But before the program can be offered, Jackson must become an IB school. Becoming an IB

See **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE**, page 2

### Kimono Show inspires students

The Arts In Stark SmArts grant enabled art students from grades 6-12 to visit the once-in-a-lifetime Kimono show at the Canton Museum of Art. Here is some of what our students had to say.



Alecia Dinko and JSA director Susan Gardner discuss the rhythm of the seasons and how line, shape, and texture flow together in the masterful work of Itckiku Kubota.

"It inspires me to be more dedicated to something." – Autumn Ransom, IHS

"It inspires me to create something great." – Tari Jones, IHS

"I'm into sports, but after seeing this, it's great to know there is more out there." – Brandon Solinger

"I can see the artist's heart." – Kassiani Fugarino, IHS

"He wanted viewers to feel something. I feel hope, like a spirit lifting." – Tierra Miller, IHS

#### Comments from 6th graders:

"I love art with a passion and the kimonos brought me closer to art again. I might start painting more."

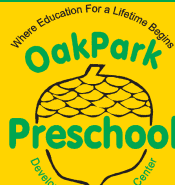
"You almost feel like you are there at Mount Fuji. This is the most amazing thing I've ever seen, and I will surely never forget it."

"It makes me want to go for my dream too."

"I love art more now. I just love how when you love to do something and you have the patience, you could create something so beautiful."

"It is a life changing thing."

**THANK YOU**  
Students are taught of the community sacrifice made for their education. The above photo and student letter are samples of the way teachers infuse learning with gratitude for the community that supports education.



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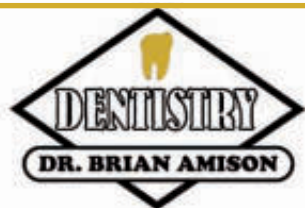
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# HIGH SCHOOL

Students in these photos are: Tommy McDonald, Ben DeForest, Lauren Kramer, Cody Feron, Mike Hrycyk, Bill Sprit, John Boda, Derek Saunders, Chad Puskas, Zach Hammel, Steve Hackenberg, Eric Durr.



## Construction-kids-build-unity-in-our-community

JHS Construction Technology students put their classroom lessons to the test as the better our community. Instructor, Brian Clevenger, had students construct three buildings, from foundation to shingles, right inside the classroom. One will remain inside the classroom to teach wiring, plumbing and interior finish work. The other two were claimed by the

lacrosse and tennis teams. When the baseball team saw the craftsmanship, it promptly ordered a similar storage unit. On a larger scale, the students built a 40' x 80' pole building and attached it to an existing storage building in Jackson's South Park. In their spare time, students roofed and did interior work on Jackson's 12th Habitat house. Mr. Clevenger plans

to involve the students more heavily in next year's Habitat project, as he will become one of the advisors.

"Being able to work hands-on teaches you a lot," said student John Boda.

"I plan to become an architect, and this class is teaching me the basics I will need," said student Lauren Kramer.

## International Baccalaureate Continued from page 1

school is a two-year process of making application, gaining site approval, and teacher training. That means, if all goes as planned, student instruction would begin in school year 2010- 2011. This year's freshmen would be Stark County's first possible IB students.

The program would be open to 25 juniors and 25 seniors. Students will have the potential to graduate high school with 36 hours of college credit.

International Baccalaureate schools began 40-years ago as a way to offer a consistent, top-quality curriculum to children who traveled the world with

parents in the international diplomatic corps. Therefore, the curriculum is the same in 134 countries worldwide.

Perry Assistant Superintendent Joe Chaddock is eager to help bring this global curriculum to local students. "For our kids to be successful we must incorporate 21st century skills into the curriculum. The world is flat now," he said, referencing the title of Thomas L. Friedman's internationally bestselling book. The title is a metaphor for viewing the globe as a level playing field where all competitors have an equal opportunity.

The IB program combines what are

considered to be the world's best teaching techniques with a strong emphasis on writing, language, experimental science, mathematics computer science, communication, the arts, and world cultures. Students learn to ask critical questions that give them an awareness of their own thinking process, develop a strong sense of their own culture and national identity, communicate with and understand people and cultures worldwide, and apply their knowledge via community action. IB helps students recognize the need to act responsibly in an increasingly interconnected and uncertain world.

## JHS artists strike gold

Erin Meyer and Sharon Teuscher are regional winners of the Scholastic Art Gold Portfolio Awards, a national program that seeks out America's most outstanding teen artists. Distinguished past winners include Richard Avedon, Andy Warhol, and Robert Redford. Erin and Sharon's portfolios will now move on to the national competition to compete for \$10,000 scholarships.

Both students are planning careers in the fine arts and hope to study at the Maryland Institute College of Art.



JHS seniors, Erin Meyer (left) and Sharon Teuscher, pose with a few of the fine art pieces included in their gold portfolios.

"I can't see myself doing anything else," said Sharon. "I would like people to feel the passion I feel for the subjects I base my art upon. Art is a way of having an important, wordless conversation with others."

"I would like to create art that makes people stay a while, stare for hours and not get bored. I don't want it to just be pretty. I want the viewer to have an emotional connection to it, from relaxed, to shocked, and get sucked into that world for an experience," said Erin.

"Every year, the students recognized exemplify the level of achievement that is possible when schools and communities make a commitment to quality arts education programs," said B.J. Adler, executive director of the Alliance for Young Artists.

## Arts Extravaganza

In February, the Jackson School for the Arts (JSA) hosted its third annual Art Extravaganza in the high school commons to raise funds to keep the arts program alive. The event packed the house and featured performances by the Jackson Elementary Honors Choir, the Jack's-N-Jill's show choir, the JHS Jazz Band, JSA dance classes, JMMS cast members of Willy Wonka, and the Jackson High School Theater III class who presented the Spoon River Anthology. Patrons also viewed student art work, participated in a silent and live auction, and enjoyed a catered dinner.

ArtsInStark (AIS) director, Robb Hankins, was in attendance, as Jackson is one of 200 Stark County non-profits that receive an AIS special project grant.

"An arts explosion is happening at JHS. It's great to see hundreds of people so excited about kids being involved with the arts," Mr. Hankins said.

Parent Michele Henry said, "This fabulous event is a great way to raise needed funds and showcase what kids are learning."

The funds will be used to defray the cost of the arts program at Jackson Local.

Arts In Stark director, Robb Hankins, views the Arts Extravaganza gallery with students Tierra Miller, Ally Oliver, and Sierra Grathovac who just performed their zombie dance for the crowd.



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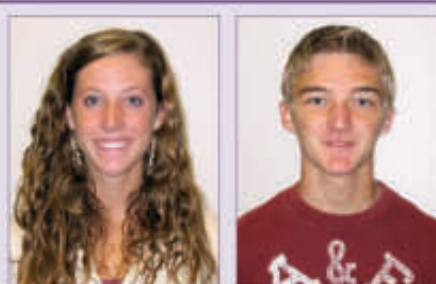
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# HIGH SCHOOL



## 1st Place Techie

JHS senior, Mike Short, will compete in the state Internetworking competition later this month. He earned the right after placing 1st in the local and regional contests in the category of Computer Maintenance Technology. Mike plans to make a career in computer technology.



## National Merit Finalists

JHS seniors Rachel Anderson (left) and Micah Johnson are finalists in the National Achievement® Scholarship Program. The program honors students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Rachel plans to major in neuroscience and possibly attend the University of Pennsylvania. Micah will study chemistry at Yale University. Of the approximately 1.5 million students who take the qualifying test, Rachel and Micah are among the nation's 1,300 finalists whose SAT scores and consistently high academic records qualify them for the possible receipt of one of the 700 scholarships worth \$2,500.



## A nation of voices unite

Junior, Megan Moody (center) and seniors Brett Parr and Kaitlin Lisy received the highest possible choral honor for high school students when they were selected to participate in the 200-voiced National Honors Choir that gave two concerts in Oklahoma City. They were three of only four Ohio students selected. The choir, noted for singing some of the toughest choral literature written by current composers, received three standing ovations, one before the end of a performance.



## Speech/debate student is state champion, team finishes 8th, coach wins 1st diamond

Rohan Bhargava won the state championship in International Extemporaneous Speaking. He is Jackson's 1st champion since 2002 and the 5th champion in Jackson's history. Micah Johnson and Olivia Johnson finished 2nd in Public Forum Debate. Ellen Martin finished 3rd in Lincoln Douglas Debate. Suyash Khanvilkar was a finalist and finished 4th in Student Congressional Debate. These students will compete at the national tournament in Birmingham, Alabama in June.

State Semi-Finalists were: Abby Wahl (Humorous Interp.), Aaron Strickland

(International Extemp), Sahir Pervaiz (Congress), and Elze Rackaityte (Congress). Finishing the season as tournament quarter-finalists were Brett Martz, David Peters, Brook Pittinger, Maria Komer (Duo Interp.), and Dan Traicoff (Impromptu).

The team finished 8th overall and was one of two Canton area schools finishing in the top 10 at one of the closest and toughest state finals in nearly a decade. Only five total sweepstakes points separated the 4th and 8th place teams.

Coach, Leslie Mann said, "I am so proud

of these students. It was undoubtedly a great weekend to be a Polar Bear!"

### Coach wins diamond

JHS Speech and Debate coach, Leslie Mann, earned a first diamond award from the NFL. Coaches earn diamonds as their teams earn debate points. Mrs. Mann's students earned 15,330 points, which places her coaching abilities in the first diamond category and enables her to wear a diamond set in an NFL key or pin. As students continue accruing points, coaches receive additional diamonds. Mrs. Mann will be honored with her team at the national tournament in June.

## Junior Achievement preps students for business success

JHS students in the Cooperative Business classes have worked with Todd Hawke of GDK & Company on a Junior Achievement

*"... I want them to realize they don't have to go to New York or California to work for a great company."*

— TODD HAWKE, GDK & Co.

program of study called JA Titan®. The program introduces critical economics and management skills via an interactive business simulation through seven volunteer-led sessions. After learning key business concepts, students use a computer program to set-up and run their own simulated business. The program allows students to make decisions and shows them the results of their actions.

*"I'm preparing to be successful."*

— CHRIS HERNDON, JHS STUDENT.

"They get to see how each decision affects their bottom line," Mr Hawke said.

"I plan to take over my dad's business someday, and I feel this has prepared me



Todd Hawke, Junior Achievement volunteer, oversees the progress of Haley Brown, Ryan Bailey, and Haley Dun who are seated at the computer. Also visible are Kelsey David and Chris Herndon (back left, and Katelyn Johnson and Nicole Shevlino (Back right).

to face certain challenges. I am preparing to be successful," said student Chris Herndon.

When asked why he invests so many hours in this volunteer program, Mr. Hawke said, "I volunteer to keep these

kids in Stark County. By familiarizing them with our business community and Chamber of Commerce, I want them to realize they don't have to go to New York or California to work for a great company."

## The car doctors – They fix cars

Matt Lawrence and John Walter placed 2nd in the Vehicle Diagnostic Competition at the Cleveland Car Show. This was the first time in the 17-year history of the competition that Jackson qualified to compete. The students received a \$700 scholarship and a tool set. The competition consisted of diagnosing the problems with a 2009 Ford Edge that had been "bugged" by various automotive technicians and instructors. The students had 2.5 hours to complete their repairs in front of the many spectators at the car show. Representatives from Waikem Ford helped the boys prepare for the competition by teaching them the Ford diagnostic scan tools and procedures.



Matt Lawrence (left) and John Walter under the hood, while their automotive technology instructor George Vraybeck holds their trophy.

### See students and teachers on video

We now have the ability to provide the public with short videos that depict life and learning in the Jackson Local Schools. Many of the videos are made by students. Check them out at <http://jackson.stark.k12.oh.us/videos.cfm>.



### State Economics Champ

Kyle Lavelle placed 1st in the Individual Economic Research Event at the state conference for Business Professionals of America (BPA) in Columbus in March. He is eligible to attend the National Conference in May at Dallas, Texas. In January, he placed 1st in the BPA regional competition.

**POLAR BEAR PRIDE** is published five times each year under the auspices of the Jackson Local Board of Education with advertising support from area businesses. It is printed and mailed to Jackson homes and businesses at no cost to the school district. Polar Bear Pride is not a public forum. Its purpose is to keep the community informed of life and learning in the Jackson Local Schools.

**YOUR INPUT IS WELCOMED:** Send comments to Paula Blangger, [pblangger@neo.rr.com](mailto:pblangger@neo.rr.com).



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— Grace Tatka, Jackson High School

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Big math minds win 13 top spots in 2009 tournament

Jackson Memorial Middle School (JMMS) hosted a math tournament attended by 470 fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students from 12 schools in Stark County. After three rounds of 20-minute tests, Jackson won many top awards, including 13 first places. Jackson coaches: Amy Bundich, Linda Stump, Jordan Parks, Sharon Coyle, Summer Fritz, Julie Hartline, Jim Williamson, and Seana Carter reported these results.

In seventh grade computation, Daria El-Badewi and Cindy Vo placed while Jeff Hooper took home the 1st place trophy. In 6th grade computation, Katie Degrange and Taylor Heston received top places while Dana Sutton took home 1st place. In seventh grade mental computation, the three participants from Jackson, Radhika Adusumilli, Sam Sutton, and Sebastian Villegas all took home top honors, with Sebastian taking home the 1st place trophy. In 6th grade mental computation, Jonathan Li and Ryan Tsai walked away with 1st and 2nd place honors. In seventh grade word problems,



The JMMS Math Tournament team

Isha Das and Tanner Sereno placed, while Emily Ribaudo took home the 1st place trophy. In sixth grade word problems, Robert Dysart earned 2nd place honor, while Karris McCollum took home the 1st place trophy. In seventh grade Geometry/Measurement, Robert Clifford, Michelle Dilling, and Abishek Bhargava swept the first, second and third places. In

sixth grade Geometry/Measurement, Mitchell Wendt, Tyrus Jones, and Anthony Barbari took first, second and third places. Finally, in the category of problem solving, the 7th grade team of Matt Gillogly, Michelle Tawil, and Kareesma Paarboo placed third, while the 6th grade team of Lillian Eckroate, Tessa Hill, and Morgan Kyle took 1st place.



### Talent show replaces craft show, brings families together

The JMMS parent group (PATT) decided to replace its long-running craft show fundraiser with a student talent show held at JHS. Co-organizers Sherry Martell and Sunita Paul said that involving the students added an important element—family.

"It brought a lot of families together, and we are very pleased," said Sherry.

"The middle school has wonderful talent, and it's good for students to see what their classmates can do," Sunita said.

"And the district now has such a beautiful space at the high school, why not use it," added Sherry, who also commented on the "absolutely wonderful support offered by the high school staff."

The show featured 23 acts, including three teacher acts, and raised \$3,000 which the PATT will use to bring extras to the JMMS students, such as granting teacher wishes for their classrooms, and helping to pay for student field trips.

The talent show will be repeated next year, as more students and teachers are already perfecting their acts.

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**JMMS career day gets kids thinking about the future**

JMMS 8th graders filed into their gymnasium to speak with community members about the realities of 42 different careers. Students were required to visit three booths, but most eagerly visited more, learning about the educational requirements, entry-level salaries, and daily tasks of each career.



Camden Orr, Preston Caldwell, John Stewart, and Brandon Smith with Dr. Gerald F. Klimo of Omni Orthopedics.

Retired U.S. Secret Service agent Fred Lawman, gave students a peek at what it's like to protect a president.



Cody Bruey with Ohio Highway Patrol Sgt. Carlos Smith.

Jackson Trustees, John Pizzino and Bill Burger talked about a day in the life of a public servant.



Brian Tschantz with Jackson Local technology coordinator Keith Obermeier.

Geologist Jim Hanlon spoke of drilling some of Ohio's 265,000 oil/gas wells.



Marissa Biclawski and Zak Fettman with Steve Fettman of Davies Drugs.

Former NFL football player and Canton native Todd Blackledge took students into the ESPN booth. Now a college football commentator for the network, he told what it takes to put a game on TV.



Kristin Wright with Robin Brechbuhler of Brechbuhler Interior Design.

**Unity In Our Community**



Dominique Smith with petroleum geologist Jim Hanlon.



Ellie Saltsman and Jenna Vincent with Jackson trustees John Pizzino and Bill Berger.



**Wow! Emily did it again!**

After twelve intense rounds of spelling, Emily Ribaudo, for the second year in a row, emerged as the winner of the Jackson District Spelling Bee. She accomplished this by successfully spelling the words such as Mahatma, rhinoceros, Geronimo, vocable, and wattled.

Nipping on her heels, however, were the brother and sister team of Danna and Sam Sutton. Danna dropped out in the ninth round leaving Sam to duke it out for three more rounds with the champ, spelling words such as hydraulic and herpetology, only to fall on the word hokum.

Fellow competitors making it into the final rounds included: Lena Ty, Abhishek Bhargava, Sarah Sullivan, Rose Milnes, Amanda Ly, Karris McCollum, and Abby Zalenski.

Congratulations are due to all 44 participants. To qualify for the district bee, they first had to be top spellers in a written bee and in a grade level oral bee.

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# ALUMNOTES



Vincent Dorsey with his beloved service dog, Lucy.

## Scholarship Winner

Vincent Dorsey, a 2005 grad, received the John S. Knight Scholarship. A journalism student at the University of Akron, he is a sports reporter for *The Buchtelle*, The University's student newspaper, and has also written for the Akron Aeros and helped edit the university's School of Communications alumni magazine. The John S. Knight scholarship is awarded annually to outstanding students studying journalism, communications and public relations. Knight, who died in 1981, was an award-winning journalist, publisher, editor of the Akron Beacon Journal and a founder of Knight Ridder.

## On The Banner

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- P** Aaron Dearth
- R** Grace Weaver
- I** Olivia Buonaspina
- D** Morgan Casey
- E** Richard Warmken-Hixson



From left are Jack and Marilyn Welsh who accepted the award for their son Rob Dewolf who was ill, Bonnie Sprankle, and Janice and Bill Bake who accepted the award for their son Jason Bake who was coaching at a wrestling tournament.

## Alumni Association adds three to high school's Wall of Fame

This year's Alumni Association Wall of Fame inductees were Bonnie (Bergener) Sprankle, a 1952 graduate; Rob Dewolf, a 1981 graduate; and Jason Bake, a 2001 graduate. The three were honored on the basketball court during a boys varsity basketball game.

Mrs. Sprankle served as president of the Jackson Historical Society for 14 years. She inspired and worked tirelessly to preserve the One Room School House—Jackson Center School, helped save the historic bridge at Erie Avenue and Forty Corners, and initiated the Jackson Township Tree Fund. She and her dog Abby Rose volunteer at Rose Lane Nursing Center as part of a dog therapy program.

Mr. Dewolf, a former sports writer at the *Repository*, is now a sports editor at the Columbus Dispatch. An outstanding baseball player for the Polar Bears, he made first-team All-Federal League and

All-County during the 1980 and 1981 seasons. He was a finalist for the U.S. Olympic team in 1984 and was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the seventh round of the 1984 amateur. He played six years in the minors, advancing to the Triple-A level with the San Diego Padres. He once hit a home run off four-time Cy Young winner Greg Maddux.

Mr. Bake, now a teacher and wrestling coach in the Jackson Local Schools, was a four-year letter winner in wrestling and state champion in 2000. He was awarded Wrestler of the Year in both Federal League and Stark County for the 1999, 2000 and 2001 seasons. Mr. Bake was also state runner-up at 125 pounds in 1999 and at 140 pounds in 2001. He holds several wrestling records, including 217 takedowns in a single season. His career record was 133-18 at Jackson. In 2006, he was inducted into the Stark County Wrestling Hall of Fame.

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	<b>Total Enclosed</b> .....
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## Heard a rumor? Want the facts?

We know that trying to squash a rumor is like trying to un-ring a school bell, but you can help. If you hear an unlikely story about your top-rated school district, or find something confusing, just ask at:

[pmb1jc@jackson.sparcc.org](mailto:pmb1jc@jackson.sparcc.org)

### Eat at the Bear's Den

The student-run restaurant serves the public delicious lunches Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM at Jackson High School.

## Keep Learning

Visit Jackson's on-line community education center

[www.ed2go.com/jtce](http://www.ed2go.com/jtce)

### Sign up for summer basketball camp

Summer basketball camp will be coached by JHS varsity coach Mike Fuline, his JMMS staff, JHS staff, and high school players:

**June 8-11**  
K-6th grade

**June 15-18**  
7th-9th grade

Learn the basketball fundamentals, and get a ball and t-shirt. Cost is \$60 for grades K-3, \$100 for grades 4-6, and \$90 for grades 7-9. Family discounts available. Deadline for registration is Friday, May 22. Registration forms will be sent home with students. If you have questions, call Scott Studer at 330-837-3501 ext: 1446.

### Safety Village

**June 15-19**  
Sauder Elementary  
8:45 a.m. - noon

Open to students who are currently in kindergarten and 1st grade (2008-09 school year). Registration forms are available at the Jackson Safety Center after April 20. Registration deadline is May 20.

### Your Board of Education



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### Board Meeting Schedule

Apr. 21	JHS	6:30 PM
May 19	JHS	6:30 PM
June 16	JHS	6:00 PM
July 21	JHS	6:00 PM
Aug. 18	JHS	6:00 PM
Sept. 15	JHS	6:30 PM
Oct. 20	Sauder	6:30 PM
Nov. 17	Lake Cable	6:30 PM
Dec. 15	Amherst	6:30 PM

Meeting dates and times can change. Call 330-830-8000 to confirm.



*Unity In Our Community*

### Students display old fashioned kindness

Students in the JHS Horticulture classes made fresh carnation arrangements in parfait glasses and topped them with a plastic cherry and two straws to simulate an old fashioned ice cream soda for the enjoyment of residents at area nursing homes. Pictured are: Rose Lane residents Herbert Rose and Helen Chovan with students Grace Gribble, Nick Olinger, Morgan Blair, and Julia Messinger. "I may have had one or two girlfriends over a soda in my 86 years," Mr. Rose said with a smile. Ms. Chovan, 84, remembered going to the Sugar Bowl in Massillon for sundaes with her friends.

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## LAKE CABLE ELEMENTARY



### Cable kids speak Spanish

"Hola," said three JHS students to a class of Lake Cable 2nd graders.

"Hola," came the loud and immediate reply from the little ones who were excited for their lesson to begin. About 40 JHS student members of Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (Spanish National Honor Society) travel to Lake Cable every Tuesday and Thursday after school to give Spanish lessons to first, second, and third graders.

"The kids are like a reflection of us when we were little. They are like sponges, so curious," said JHS student Mathias Peralta.

"They are making us bilingual," said 2nd grader Cole Bailey.

*Unity In Our Community*

### Recess Walking Club



Lake Cable students cheered when they saw their physical education teacher, Cortney Adelman, with her Popsicle sticks. That meant the walking club was starting up again. Each time a student walks the perimeter of their playground, he or she is given a Popsicle stick to hold as a lap counter. When a student gathers 10 sticks, she has walked one mile. Ms. Adelman said, "It promotes a healthy, positive activity during recess, and the kids just love to go home and tell their parents that they walked a mile."

### PAL group makes new kids old friends in no time

A Peer Assistance and Leadership group (PAL) was formed this year at Lake Cable by guidance counselor Lee Fortner. A select group of 4th and 5th graders worked to assist new students and foster a sense of belonging as new students adjust.

**All PAL members must:**

- Demonstrate good communication skills
- Be positive, friendly, and responsible
- Help others to create new friendships
- Encourage others to make the right choices
- Help others feel wanted and supported
- Lead by example

"I had a great experience," said PAL Ally Boggs, who assisted two new students.

"We trained for this, learning all about our school, so we could give the new students tours," said Andrew Adolph.

"I didn't know our school had a boiler room," said Sabrina Zanin.

Stephanie Martzaklis is a PAL because she remembers being timid when arriving at Lake Cable after the original start day. "Anna asked me to sit next to her and introduced me to her friends, and now we're all best friends," she said.

The same thing happened to PAL Jacob Hull when he arrived at Lake Cable in the middle of his kindergarten year. He reported that the two boys who befriended him then are still his best friends as a 5th grader, and he wants to pass it on.

Each PAL agreed that making others feel welcome has left them with such positive feelings that they will always take the first step toward friendship in future situations.



Front from left: Jaslyn Hagy, Ricky Dice, Dillon Dingler, George Scott, Alicia Ford. Back: Ally Boggs, Stephanie Martzaklis, Andrew Adolph, Jacob Hull, Sabrina Zanin.

# AMHERST ELEMENTARY



**Strausser Change Bandits Kory Roth, Abby Harrill, Natalie Meek, Anna White.**



**Amherst Change Bandits Brittney Mast, Ethan Jackman, Aiden Moses, Taylor Mikesell, and Cameron Tyler.**

## Change Bandits do their part with heart

Amherst students raised \$2802 for the WKDD FM 98.1 radiothon, Have a Heart Do Your Part - Akron Children's Hospital fundraiser, beating their goal by \$600. The students asked family, friends, classmates, and neighbors to chip in their spare change to support programs for children with cancer and blood disorders such as Camp Courage, The School Re-Entry Program, and the support group Clement's Kindness. Strausser and Sauder students also participated, raising \$2,874 and \$2,062 respectively. When the collection was done, the counting began. Students counted change, rolled it, and finally hand delivered it to WKDD radio personality Matt Patrick one Saturday morning in February. In addition, Sauder delivered 24 boxes of books.



**Tucker Berens, Luke Walker, TJ Ricker**

### Unity In Our Community



**Amherst Change Bandits deliver the loot to Matt Patrick on the morning of the radiothon.**

## Shoes2Share – Amherst connects with Afghan children

Amherst 3rd graders are collecting clean, gently-used shoes for Afghan children, toddlers to teens. Later this month, the shoes will be sent to LT Steve Berens, who is currently stationed in Farah, Afghanistan on a joint Army-Navy Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).

According to LT Berens, temperatures in Farah get as low as 15-20° in the winter and up to 130°+ in the summer. The terrain is dirt and rock. If the children have shoes at all, they are sandals

that are torn or too small. The PRT has a supply of donated clothing items, however, they have no shoes to share. That's when Tucker Berens stepped up to the plate. Tucker is Amherst's 3rd grade vice president and LT Berens's son. He made a school wide announcement to kick off the Shoes2Share project.

"Please consider donating to this worthwhile cause. The children in Farah will be very grateful," he said.

The children in Tucker's class send his



**LT Steve Berens with children in Farah**

father pictures, videos, and Web site information to keep him involved since he left for duty last October.

## Amherst PALs work hard at welcoming

See PAL story on previous page



**Fifth Grade PALs**  
Front from left: Kayla Worrell, Cameron Cubilla, Olivia Goldinger.  
Back row: RJ Beacock, Noah Evans, Triston Simon.

**Third Grade PALs:**  
Front from left: Paige Youngdahl, Julianne Hodge, Wesley Walsh.  
Back row: James Pi, Nathan Mathieu, James Johnson.



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# SAUDER ELEMENTARY

## Bacon and bus driver help hearts in Stark

American Heart Association representative and Jackson graduate, Abby Yanchunas, extended her gratitude to a bus driver, the Sauder staff, the generous Jackson community, and a pot-bellied pig named Bacon. Ms. Yanchunas said Sauder is Stark County's top fund-raising school, this year contributing \$10,500 to the cause.

"The Sauder staff makes it so much fun," she said, referring to the staff promises to hold a pie throw as part of the fund-raising effort and to kiss a pig if the total hit \$10,000. Pig kissers Jim Kish, Beth Ruggieri, and Cindy Brown thought the impossibly high goal would protect them from the task, but Sauder students met and surpassed the goal just to see their gym teachers and principal lock lips with Bacon.

Before a gymnasium full of children stifling their giggles, the three did as promised. The students held silent out of respect for Bacon who might have become frightened by the noise, but the energy of the nearly exploding giggles could be felt all the same. Because the pig wanted nothing to do with kissing a human, the humans had to gently entice Bacon with crackers and apple slivers held in their lips.

Earlier in the campaign, bus driver April Shafer took nearly 100 whipped cream dollops to the face because, she said, "I love these children and it's a good cause."



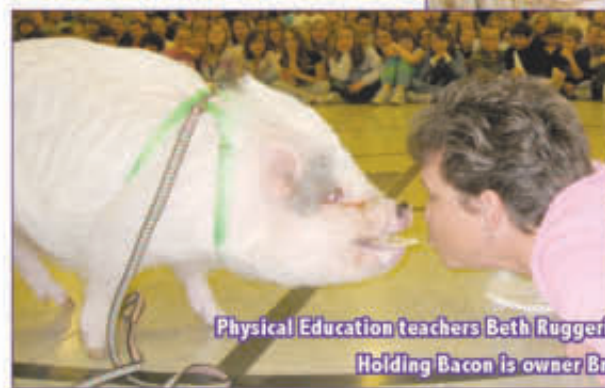
Principal, Cindy Brown liked Bacon so much, she kissed her twice.



Student Jacob Fierle takes aim at bus driver April Shafer.



Physical Education teachers Beth Ruggieri and Jim Kish also plant one on the pig. Holding Bacon is owner Brooke Sanner of Hartville.



## Sauder mathletes victorious in county-wide competition

Sauder students participated in the countywide math tournament held at JMMS for fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students. After three rounds of 20-minute tests, Sauder students fared very well. And the winners are...



Kajal Parbhoo placed 1st in Mental Math with two 100% scores out of three  
 Sam Hyde 2nd place Mental Math  
 Hannah Kelly 3rd place Word Problems  
 Shane Kelly 2nd place Word Problems  
 Peter Palmer 1st place Word Problems

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# JACKSON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Quality Education is a Community Commitment

## Touchable technology keeps kids engaged

Second grade teacher Scott Morton is moving many of his lessons from the chalk board to the SMART Board, a technology that combines the simplicity of a whiteboard with the power of a computer.

"Anything I can do on a computer, I can do on a SMART Board," he said, further explaining that he can completely control the SMART Board screen by using his finger as a mouse. Any notes Mr. Morton writes on the screen can be saved and printed for students.

"The SMART Board can take us anywhere on the Internet," said 2nd grader Madyson Bostic.

"We can take tests with the clickers," said student Ben Westfall. The clickers are hand-held remotes that allow each student to see a problem on the board and key in the answer at his desk.

"Clickers keep the kids engaged in the lesson, and if used for a test, it instantly grades the tests and saves the paper we would have needed to print the test,"

Mr. Morton said,

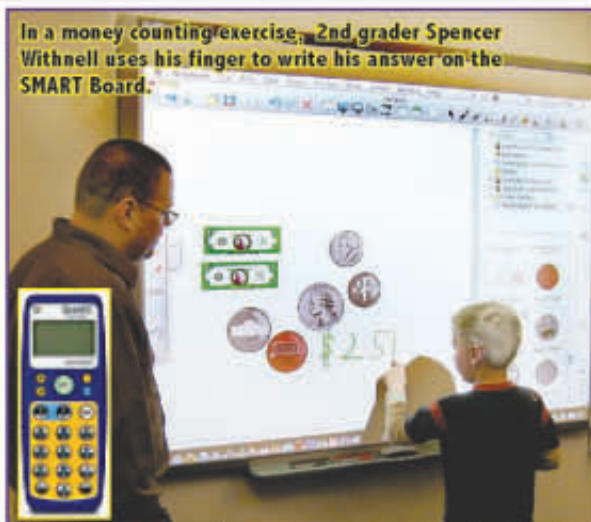
Seven of these super-learning tools have been provided to Strausser by its parent group, PTG, led by president Cynthia Jacobs.

"We are thrilled to help facilitate Mrs. Minor's quest for technology in the building and are hoping to bring the total to 10 SMART Boards this school year," Mrs. Jacobs said.

"I could not be happier with the gift our PTG has made after two years of fundraising. My hope is to place one of these incredible learning tools in every classroom. They say dream big and that is what I am doing," said the school's principal Anna Minor.

*"I think it's better than Nintendo."*  
—Julian Pettit, 2nd grader

In a money counting exercise, 2nd grader Spencer Withnell uses his finger to write his answer on the SMART Board.



This is what a classroom looks like when the teacher asks, "Who wants to use the Smart Board?" About half of the students pictured said they would give up recess for the chance to use the school's new technology.

## Children's author visits Strausser

She is a proud member of the Cherokee nation of Oklahoma and owner of an imagination that takes children out of this world. Her name is B.W. Cloud, and she writes science fiction fantasy novels. Strausser 4th graders who are learning to write their own stories found her completely fascinating as she shared some of her Native American heritage and what it takes to be an author. Ms. Cloud read aloud from her recently released book: *The Adventures of the Tadpole Brothers*. Students begged for more.

"I'm so excited because I never met a real author before said young writer Marissa Humbert. "I'd like to write books. My story, The Spooky Night, had some great details in it."

Students Diana Yunkin and Stone King receive autographed books from author B. W. Cloud.



## Volunteer teaches art at Strausser

Just as 3rd graders are mastering cursive writing and the concept of symmetry, art teacher, Colleen Oylar taught students how to create a mirror image of their name, then turn it sideways and begin coloring it to look like a bug. This 2002 JHS grad who earned a degree in art education from the University of Toledo is volunteering two hours every Friday at Strausser while earning her master's at Ashland. "I like to give the students an opportunity to think creatively and see things differently," she said.

"Mrs. Oylar has been extremely beneficial to our students because she encourages them to enjoy the process of art and feel proud of the end result, no matter what," said Principal Anna Minor.



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## Tri-M Music Honor Society makes 10th anniversary inductions

The JHS Tri-M Music Honor Society held its 10th anniversary induction ceremony and student recital. This international society recognizes the musical and academic accomplishments of the students and gives them opportunities for performance and community service. The new 2009 inductees are: Audrey Altieri, Ethan Ash, Guenna Bolinger, Kiah Carroll, Jason Faust, Sarah Geis, Leanne Golden, Becky Holliday, Caitlyn Holliday,

Erin Huemme, Jeffrey Humerickhouse, Michelle Hummel, Stephanie Hummel, Leslie Kramer, Beth Langenderfer, Kaitlin Lisy, Anthony Lumpp, Serra Marshall, Danielle Martin, Gabrielle McAndrew, Kevin McLaughlin, Megan Moody, Stephen Neal, Britt Parker, Sarah Schiller, Hannah Thomas, Matt Turner, and Chase Zonfa.

Returning members are: Historian Stephanie Boron, Erik Carlson, Ryan DiRuzza, President Joey Forchione,

Natassia Haupt, Secretary Amanda Jacobson, Erica Kakos, Treasurer Kyle Longworth, Sean McLaughlin, Vice President Erin Meyer, Brett Parr, and Michael Workman.

Three community members were honored with lifetime honorary memberships for their dedication to music performance in the Jackson Local Schools: Tyler Carpenter, Josh Devore, and Robert Feldbush.

## Unity In Our Community

### Buehler's is a strong and important Polar Bear partner

Buehler's Fresh Foods market just keeps on giving to the students of Jackson Local Schools. It started when Buehler's created employment opportunities for our students with special needs to ensure that their classroom lessons could be practiced in the real world of work. Teacher Jackie Cameron could not be more pleased with the partnership and the strides our students are making alongside the caring employees at Buehler's.

- Our marketing students also practice what they have learned in the classroom as part-time Buehler's employees.
- The store hosted a Polar Bear Party, giving away bowls of chili in January for donations that were passed on to our school.
- Their Patio Program allows our fund-raising groups to sell hot dogs and keep the profit.
- Our choir has used the patio and the inside of the store to sing for tips.
- Buehler's was a leading partner in our extremely successful pancake breakfast. When the unexpected flow of people created long lines in our cafeteria, it was Buehler's to the rescue. They fired-up their pancake griddles and began flipping to feed our masses. Again, we kept all the profit.



For the past two years, JHS senior Devin Faiella has worked in the coffee shop at Buehler's as part of her JHS marketing class. "I want to go into marketing and sales and someday own a coffee shop of my own," Devin said. She is pictured with Buehler's community relations manager Dave Allen.

"Giving is a Buehler's company philosophy," said Dave Allen, community relations manager for the store.

Dave spends about 50% of his day organizing and managing the store's charitable projects. He said, "Giving is a win-win. It helps the community, but it also brings shoppers into our store. Having the students in our store brings a certain level of excitement. It puts our employees and our customers in a good mood. We don't want to be just

a grocery store. We want to be a place that is always changing and always fun."

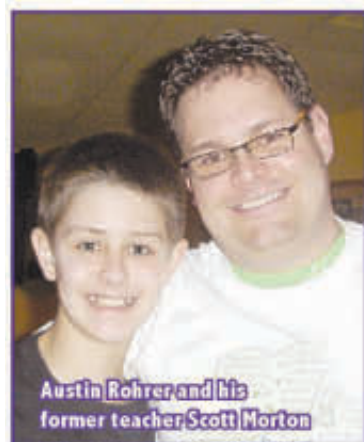
The Jackson Local Board of Education and administration want Buehler's to know that the partnership is much appreciated.

Superintendent Cheryl Haschak said, "We're fortunate to have such a community-minded neighbor who cares so deeply about the school system and the families that they serve."

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Jackson Local has fewer administrators per student than any district in Stark County.

## Jackson teacher goes bald, bringing hope to kids with cancer



Austin Rohrer and his former teacher Scott Morton

Strausser teacher Scott Morton again joined the St. Baldricks crew of volunteers who shaved their heads in solidarity of children with cancer, while requesting donations of support from friends and family. The event takes place every March at the Winking Lizard. In nine years, events have taken place in 18 countries and 48 U.S. states, raising over \$50 million, and shaving more than 72,000 heads. In the past two years, Mr. Morton raised nearly \$3,500 of that total in honor of cancer survivor Austin Rohrer, a JMMS student who was diagnosed when he was in 2nd grade and who, now as a 6th grader, is in remission. During treatment, Austin missed nearly a year of school, so Mr. Morton tutored him to keep him on grade level. The Winking Lizard honored two Jackson children, Austin and Strausser first grader Danielle Deryck. Donations are still being accepted at [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org).



Son Brady examines dad's new dome.

## JHS junior attends inauguration

Matt Hagen was recommended by his teacher, Darren Akers, to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine held in Boston last summer. This 10-day program introduces students to professionals from some of the nation's top medical centers. As an alumni of the conference, Matt was invited to attend the Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference. Following the inauguration, Matt heard speakers Al Gore, Colin Powell, Desmond Tutu, and National Geographic journalist Lisa Ling. Matt, who plans a career in medicine, said he hopes to someday better the lives of others. "The Inaugural Conference was a one-of-a-kind experience. It, as well as the Leadership Forum on Medicine and my participation on the JHS Speech & Debate Team have helped me gain and hold a perspective that the world is more than just where we live. It's a lot bigger, and I hope I can someday make a contribution to our world through the of medicine," Matt said.



## Eagle Scout restores pavilion

JHS senior, Samuel T. Magner, has earned the highest award the Boy Scouts of America offers, the Eagle Scout Award. A member of Troop 935 at the McDonaldsville St. Paul United Methodist Church, Sam is one of approximately 4% of all Scouts who attain the Eagle rank. According to scoutmaster Jack Smith, Sam is the 44th scout from Troop 935 to earn the Eagle since the troop was founded in 1967.



Each candidate must earn 21 merit badges and complete a community, church, or synagogue-related service project to earn his Eagle. Sam refurbished the pavilion at McDonaldsville United Methodist Church. He has served as senior patrol leader, scribe and patrol leader, holds a fifth-year Pipestone, and is a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow. Sam joins other outstanding American Eagle Scouts: former President Gerald R. Ford, Jr., astronaut Neil A. Armstrong, cinematographer Steven Spielberg, and the head of the F.B.I., William Sessions. Sam is active in music, snowboarding, scuba diving, and computers. He will be attending The Ohio State University this fall.

## Free Throw Champ

JMMS 6th grader Landrie Grace won the state title in the Knights of Columbus Ohio State Free Throw Contest by making 20 out of 25 successful free throws at the event



held recently at Bishop Ready High School in Columbus. Landrie represented the district of Canton/Youngstown. Prior to this, she qualified for the state finals by making 22 out of 25 free throws, at one point making 15 in a row in the regional contest held at Hiram College. To qualify for the regional competition, she won a sectional in Canton where she made 13 of 15 successful throws.

## Eagle Scout restores horse barn

JHS sophomore, Mason Young, has earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Less than 4% of all boys who begin scouting obtain the rank. Mason completed his Eagle project at Pegasus Farm where he planned, organized, and executed the restoration of Amy's Barn. The project spanned two months and required over 275 volunteer hours to complete. Mason also earned his 2nd year Pipestone and 2nd year Polar Bear. He has held numerous leadership positions including senior patrol leader, patrol leader, and den chief for cub scouts in North Carolina and Ohio. He has been scouting for nine years in four states (Missouri, Kansas, North Carolina, and Ohio) and is now a member of Troop 265. His favorite scouting activities are wilderness survival and hiking the Appalachian Trail. Having earned 30 merit badges, his advice to junior scouts is, "Work hard and knock them out early." At JHS, Mason is a member of the cross country team, track team, Interact Club, and German Club. He hopes to earn an Army ROTC scholarship and plans to major in history or political science in college.



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# Student connects with vets through Honor Flight

JMMS student, Taylor Hallworth, wept as she remembered her experience of volunteering on two of the Honor Flights that left from Akron Canton Airport. Honor Flight is a volunteer organization that has flown nearly 20,000 veterans of WWII to Washington D.C. to see the memorial dedicated in their honor. Vets are charged nothing for this trip. They leave in the morning, spend the day in D.C., then return home early evening.

Taylor arrives at Akron Canton Airport at 4:30 a.m. to help distribute Honor Flight t-shirts, hats and assorted gifts to the vets and see them off on their adventure. She returns again to welcome them home in the evening.

Taylor recalled the looks on the veterans faces when they returned. "We were to go up to them and shake their hands and say thank you, and the first vet who shook my hand started crying his eyes out. I am an emotional girl, so I cried mine out too," she said. Of course, it didn't help that the airport was filled with applauding family members, friends, and Rolling Thunder.

"The first time I volunteered, I met George Tomco," Taylor remembered. "He came in his uniform and had the biggest heart. When he came back

from Washington, I asked him how he liked it and he got big tears in his eyes. I cried because of the way he talked so kindly to me. He said, "You have to do everything you can because you never know what will happen." Then five days later, he passed away and my waterworks came again for the bazillionth time."



**Taylor Hallworth**

At Taylor's request, Matthew O'Brian's JMMS social studies students wrote letters of thanks to the veterans as part of Honor Flight's "Mail Call" program. The vets read the letters in D.C. as they traveled the city via bus. Some vets wrote letters back to our students. Tom Gazia, U.S. Navy veteran, wrote of his appreciation for the student letters and of "the generosity of so many people involved in Honor Flight." He told students that when they landed at Reagan National Airport, fire trucks sprayed cannons of water that formed arches over the plane as it taxied to a stop. Flags waved, a band played, and people cheered. It brought tears to his eyes. "It was a day I'll always remember," Mr. Gazia wrote.



**Veterans read letters of gratitude from students.**

Navy veteran Edward Belisle wrote, "This is truly a country of great and caring people. I am honored and humbled by it all."

Army vet Donald Henthorn wrote to thank Mr. O'Brian for giving his students time in class to honor veterans. "God bless your whole class and remember, America is the greatest."

"Honor Flight is for us to thank the veterans, but they all have such big hearts, they don't stop thanking us. It makes me feel so happy to help," Taylor concluded, noting that she also looks forward to someday traveling to Washington with the vets as a guardian/tour guide.



**Spanish Honor Society students and Jackson firefighter/paramedics collaborate on the department's language needs.**



*Unity In Our Community*

## **FIREFIIGHTERS** Continued from page 1

speaking with his grandfather, Jackson's deputy fire chief Herb Shreiner, about how he could make good on his speech. "Words are meaningless without action," Brennan said, so the two of them hatched the idea to fill a community need by bringing the Spanish students together with firefighter/paramedics who sometimes find themselves at a loss to communicate with Latino Americans in crisis.

After three brain-storming sessions with the firefighters, Brennan developed 14 lessons with his co-members and his JHS Spanish teacher Parthena Draggett. The lessons teach basic anatomy, the key phrases that paramedics ask patients as they evaluate an emergency situation, and language that will lessen some Latinos' fear of those in uniform. The students also created CDs of the lessons so that paramedics can listen and learn in their cars.

"I think this is excellent," said fire chief Ted Heck. "I am excited that young people, who

often get shortchanged about the ways they want to help their community, are providing us with an excellent opportunity to better serve the public."

Deputy chief Shreiner said, "Brennan and the others in his class are doing a wonderful thing for our department and our community. This could literally save lives."

Approximately 20 Jackson firefighters are taking the course this year, and the Perry Township Fire Department has inquired about a class. The news of this project also reached the ears of journalist Ann-Marie Lindstrom who is writing a piece for the *Journal of Emergency Medical Services*.

JHS Spanist teacher, Parthena Draggett said she is very proud of her students. "They are taking the community and global service requirements of this national honorary very seriously. Developing these collaborations is time consuming, but it is so rewarding to see one's students teaching others what they have learned – and with such pride."

## **Parents organize polar pie pitch for good readers**

The JMMS parent group, PATT, held a book fair to raise funds to support classroom activities. Students were told that if sales topped those of the fall book fair, PATT would organize a pie throw. Students met the criteria for the pie throw by purchasing 611 books, just one more than was sold in the fall.

"The goal was not so much to raise money, but to get kids to read more," said book fair chair Kim Demor. She and her team, Kathy Luginbuhl, Sunita Paul, Sherry Martel, and Connie Ribaldo planned a variety of activities for the fair, including a family night held at the school. Business that donated to the successful fair were: North Canton Skate Center, Wendy's, Chick-Fil-A, McDonalds, Spirit Gear, Family Video, Gemini Bicycle, and Ski Center.



*Photo by Kathy Luginbuhl*

**From left are teachers: Susan Ray, Ramey Mason, Diana Rankin, guidance counselor Luis Lacourt, and teachers Seana Carter, and Andrew Robitaille. Throwing the pie that caught Ms. Rankin and Mr. Lacourt is student Luca Marcelli.**

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