



# POLAR BEAR PRIDE

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## From the Superintendent

**Keeping the Main Thing, the Main Thing**

Student Achievement • Resource Management • Communication & Collaboration

CHRIS DILORETO, SUPERINTENDENT

### Partner with our educational community to keep our students and staff safe

Student and staff safety is a priority at Jackson Local Schools. Forging relationships and encouraging open communication with all stakeholders (employees, students, parents, law enforcement) is a critical part of our safety process. We have over 600 employees, approximately 6,000 students, and 12,000 parents who are encouraged to notify us about any inkling of a threat, no matter how small it may seem.

**Jackson Local Schools has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan (CIMP)** that is annually updated and regularly practiced by students and staff. That plan is overseen by our Safety Director, Harley Neftzer, who formerly served as Staff Lieutenant with the Ohio State Patrol and Police Chief for Jackson Township. Our CIMP is a fluid document that continually incorporates the nation's best practices and is submitted each year to the U.S. Attorney General for review. Periodically, throughout the school year, Mr. Neftzer reviews the plan with principals and other administrators.

**We were shocked and saddened** by the unfathomable incident that unfolded recently at Sandy Hook Elementary School, and we send our heartfelt condolences to the Connecticut community. Jackson Local will continue to examine the best practices that are recommended in the wake of that tragedy to see how we can improve our own CIMP.

**Although preparation does not equal prevention,** it does allow us the ability to respond quickly and with some measure of confidence.

**Your involvement might avert an incident.** When you let us know that something, no matter how seemingly insignificant, is not right, it gives us the best chance to diffuse most any threat. When in doubt, call your principal or any school official. We need you to partner with us on this vital aspect of student safety. We are all partners in the privileged task of caring for our community's children's. Thank you for being part of the team.

### Alert Now used for emergency only

Jackson Local Schools has an emergency notification system called Alert Now. If you have received a phone call from me between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m., it has come from the Alert Now system, which has the capability of informing our entire school family within minutes. I reserve the use of this system for true emergencies that impact all or the majority of students, such as the closing of school for inclement weather, power outage, heating system failure, and of course, any situation that would put our critical incident management plan into effect.

### One Alert Now exception

Principals may use the system to communicate, to your primary phone only, non-emergency information specific to a grade level or building.

## JHS National Honor Society kicks off season of giving

The JHS National Honor Society Community service project benefited Community Services of Stark County. Student Bethany Smith led the effort to collect toiletry items to benefit needy families in Stark County. Student Daniel Taray and his father, Dan (JHS History teacher and NHS Co-Advisor) helped deliver the items to the Community Services facility on Cleveland Avenue in time for the winter season of need.



See pages 8-9 for more **GENEROUS JACKSON**

## Treasurer receives Auditor of State Award

For the second consecutive year, Jackson Local Schools earned the Auditor of State Award based on its recently completed, clean and accurate financial audit. A "clean" report means that the recent, annual financial audit did not contain findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings, or any questioned costs.

"Clean and accurate record-keeping are the foundation for good government, and the taxpayers can take pride in your commitment to accountability," Auditor of State Dave Yost wrote to Jackson Local Schools Treasurer Linda Paris in a letter.

"It's a commitment on everyone's part. All of us—teachers, principals, administrators, and support staff—share a philosophy of good stewardship of our limited and valuable public resources," said Mrs. Paris.

Mrs. Paris praised her small staff, saying, "They pay close attention to details in their individual areas of expertise and follow protocol to the letter."



Linda Paris  
Treasurer, JLS



### Mark Your Calendar

## Spring Fling for Senior Citizens

Jacks-N-Jills  
present

## We Are Family

A bright and colorful song and dance program, featuring show tunes about family.

Thursday, April 4  
Jackson High School  
Doors open at 3:00  
Show begins at 3:30  
Dinner served at 6:00

To be notified about dinner details and to receive information about similar events, email [pblangger@me.com](mailto:pblangger@me.com) and write **FLING** in the subject line.

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# JAGS challenged to go global

As part of International Education Week, Isaac Reynolds visited the JHS students in the Jackson Academy for Global Studies (JAGS), a rigorous program of study that prepares JHS students to be global citizens.



**Isaac Reynolds (far right) with Jackson students dressed in traditional Omani garb.**

Mr. Reynolds manages the English Access Microscholarship Program for AMIDEAST, a leading American non-profit organization engaged in international education, training and development activities in the Middle East and North Africa.

Now living in the Sultanate of Oman, an Arab state in southwest Asia, Mr. Reynolds shared the rich culture of the region with JAGS students. He also spoke of the many ways American culture is welcomed by the Omani and pointed out that the Omani student may be more global than the American student because they eagerly study foreign languages and miss no opportunities to connect, technologically, with acquaintances worldwide, actively preparing themselves to work internationally.

“Our (American) culture has affected them. Open yourself to their culture,” he advised, “as Oman is likely to be the number one business area in the world. Are you ready to work in their culture? They are ready to work in yours.”

Students later told their teacher that they strongly identified with the 25-year-old Reynolds. They said he opened their minds to the real possibility of a satisfying international career.

Mr. Reynolds remarked. “My goal is to promote and facilitate a way for students from both the United States and Oman to bridge their cultures and in turn, build understanding.”

## DELAYED START SCHEDULE

Because staff and student safety is a priority, the district may need to delay the start of the school day because of a weather-related emergency. If so, the following schedule will be used unless otherwise notified.

- **Elementary students and their parents would not be impacted. Their starting time remains the same if the school day is delayed.**
- **Period 0 at JHS will be cancelled.**
- **Alert Now calls to cancel school go out between 5:30 and 6 AM.**
- **End of school day dismissal times would remain the same for all students.**

### JHS DELAYED START

Period 0	Cancelled
Period 1	9:40-10:16
Period 2	10:21-10:53
Period 3	10:58-11:30
Period 4	11:35-12:07
Period 5	12:12-12:44
Period 6	12:49-1:21
Period 7	1:26-1:58
Period 8	2:03-2:35

### JMMS DELAYED START

Homeroom	10:00-10:08
Period 1	10:11-10:31
Period 2	10:34-10:54
Period 3	10:57-11:17
Period 4	11:20-11:40
Period 5	11:43-12:09
Period 6	12:12-12:38
Period 7	12:41-1:07
Period 8	1:10-1:36
Period 9	1:39-2:04
Period 10	2:07-2:27
Period 11	2:30-2:50



## JHS students honor servicemen and women for Veteran's Day

In honor of Veteran's Day, JHS students saw the Akron Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Honor Guard post the colors in the school's Commons and learned about the MIA/POW missing man table. Veterans from nearly all branches of the service joined the students for the posting of the colors and then visited classrooms to watch the student-produced video about local veterans (most of them, Jackson graduates and Jackson teachers). The video was produced by JHS teacher Linda Sutherland and her Media Production students.

Many of the veterans stayed after the video to answer questions about being in the military and what it has meant to them.

Guest veterans were greeted by 200 small flags flying at the school's front entrance and a full-size POW flag on the flag pole.

In her newsletter, JHS principal Monica Myers asked the community to join her in thanking veterans everywhere “for what they do in protecting our freedoms and rights.”

Mrs. Myers and Assistant Principal Jeff Kracker invited the veterans for coffee and donuts in the conference room following the presentation.

## JHS challenges Hoover to one-day fund-off for Sandy victims

On Friday, November 30 JHS cheerleaders collected dollar donations from classmates and the community to help the Long Beach High School Bull Dogs of Long Island, NY rebuild their athletic program. Hurricane Sandy destroyed five of the district's six gymnasiums. Sixty-nine of their 70 athletic teams lost all of their equipment and uniforms. Most of the band instruments were also ruined. Three of the six schools were completely closed, and many of the families are still homeless.



Jackson cheerleaders challenged Hoover High cheerleaders to out-raise the Bears. Although Jackson slightly out-raised Hoover, the big winner was the Long Island Bulldogs who received a check for \$5,700 to help its athletic program get back in the game.

Days later, JHS principal, Monica Myers received a phone call from Arnie Epstein, the athletic director at Long Beach High School. “He said they received the donation and were forever grateful to our two schools for the support,” Mrs. Myers said. She also thanked the following people for coordinating the effort: cheer mom Jane Vassas, Hoover head cheer coach Tiffany Walker, and Jackson head cheer coach Deanna Mazur.

**MORE PICTURES AT [www.facebook.com/jacksonschools](http://www.facebook.com/jacksonschools)**

## Community partners welcome newest Chinese guest teacher

Claudette Istnick of Massillon Driving School and Jean Campbell, director of the Paul & Carol David YMCA have extended warm welcomes to Jackson's new Chinese teacher, Mr. Xiaoqing Wang.



Claudette Istnick and Mr. Wang

Mrs. Istnick has taught each of our three Chinese guest teachers to drive in the United States. She has always done this at no charge to the district.

Mrs. Campbell has gifted Mr. Wang with a pass to use the YMCA at no charge for the first year of his three-year stay in the USA.

office for teaching Chinese as a foreign language. He hails from Zhejiang, China, a small town of about four million people located approximately four hours west of Shanghai (by car). He will spend three years in Jackson Township, teaching

Mr. Wang is a guest teacher through the Chinese Hanban, the Chinese national



Jean Campbell and Mr. Wang

Chinese language and cultural studies at the high school and middle school.

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## Jackson Football makes OHSFCA 2012 Academic All-Ohio

Recently, the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association (OHSFCA) recognized individual student-athletes and entire teams from across the state for excelling in the classroom.



Nate Locke

For the 3rd consecutive year, the Jackson Football Team made the

grade. The Bears are one of 73 teams in the state to achieve OHSFCA Academic All Ohio honors.

For a team to qualify, the coach must send in the grade point averages of the top 22 letter winners. Jackson's average was 3.7, placing the team among the top 15 in the state.

Senior, Nate Locke, made the individual Academic All Ohio Team with a 4.0 GPA. Nate was also named a 1st team All Federal League player.

"We continually stress the importance of getting it done in the classroom because performance in school is directly related to how we perform on the field," said Head Coach Beau Baulderson.

## Get Money For College

Download the app that could pay you \$22,000!

The David Scholar Program awards scholarships to Stark County high school seniors, and is renewable for up to four years. Learn more at [www.DavidScholar.org](http://www.DavidScholar.org).



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For questions, contact Becky Duplain at 330-479-0200.



## Touring the art culture of New York City

Over the winter break, JHS art students traveled to New York City where they toured the Whitney Museum, the Frick Collection, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the NY Students Art League and the Art Academy of NY. At Radio City Musical Hall they saw a performance by the Rockettes and reveled in the sights and sounds of Times Square and Rockefeller Center.

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**And the winner is...**

The winner of the Jackson/Progressive Chevrolet Car Raffle was Jackson resident Donna Smith-Rovan. Congratulations Donna. Jackson grads Craig and Dan Sanders of Progressive Chevrolet drew the winning ticket at a December basketball game. Jackson Local Schools thanks the Sanders family and Progressive Chevrolet for the opportunity to raffle the vehicle.

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**Public invited to Big Band event with guest greats**

The Dave Banks Big Band and guest soloist saxophonist Mark Vinci will perform at the Annual Jackson Jazz Festival, 7 PM, Thursday Feb. 14 at the Jackson Center for Performing Arts at Jackson High School, 7600 Fulton Dr. NW, Massillon 44646.



**Don Turoso directs the Jackson Jazz Band at a recent event held for senior citizens at JHS.**

Jackson Jazz Ensembles will open for the Dave Banks Big Band with guest soloist Mark Vinci who will solo throughout the concert.

Vinci, a native of North Canton, is one of the top saxophonists in NYC, having performed with Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Woody Herman, John Fedchock, and the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band. He also teaches at Julliard School of Music, Purchase College, and Skidmore College.

The Dave Banks Big Band is an 18-piece Big Band with some of the finest professional musicians in Ohio. Mr. Banks spent 20 years as a lead trumpet player in Las Vegas and taught trumpet at UNLV. He currently heads the music department at Walsh Jesuit High School. His big band has performed at Chicago's, The Savannah, The Bop Stop, Tangiers, and as guests at various area high schools.

Tickets are \$10 general admission and are available while they last at either Jackson High School, Jackson Memorial Middle School, or from a member of the Jackson High School Jazz Ensemble.

Canton Ballet presents  
**Snow White**  
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3/17  
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**Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, at 7:00 PM**  
**Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, at 3:00 PM**

**Tickets: Pre-sale=\$7 At Door=\$8**

**All performances will be held at the Jackson Center for Performing Arts**  
**7600 Fulton Drive NW**  
**For more information, contact:**  
**Jackson Middle School at (330) 830-8034**

**Community Service**  
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**Shopping spree makes Christmas merry for many**

The JHS Community Matters Club is comprised of students from Mr. Durkin's class for students with special learning needs and several typical peers who help with instruction in functional life skills, including shopping and money-handling. The club conducted its annual WalMart Shopping Spree to purchase gifts for more than 80 area needy families. Various student service organizations from JHS collect money and pool their donations to fund the shopping spree. Other JHS groups wrap the gifts and see to their distribution.

**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.

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL

# Video GameMakers build wild new worlds

More than 70 JMMS students are enjoying a new GameMakers Club, advised by Media Specialist Andrew Robitaille. GameMakers meet weekly after school to create their own video games, using two pieces of software: Minecraft and Scratch. The club encourages peer collaboration to solve problems and improve gamemaking skills.

Minecraft is a construction game in which players build environments using 3D textured cubes.

Scratch is a free piece of software that allows users to create basic and advanced interactive games and animations by using building blocks instead of programming code. Users draw a character (called a 'sprite') and then apply jigsaw-puzzle blocks of commands to allow the sprite to move and interact with its environment and other sprites.

Studies show that game creation, especially in a social environment, promotes educational benefits such as innovation skills, critical thinking, problem solving, communication,



collaboration, and creativity.

Many students in the GameMakers Club are beginners who are learning through experimentation and peer coaching. JHS students Joey Phillabaum, Andrew Herring, and Ken Gregg began using Scratch with Mr. Robitaille two years ago and are now creating highly sophisticated games that operate like professional video games. These

students visit the GameMakers Club to demonstrate their expertise and coach the newbies.

Mr. Robitaille sees educational potential with the gamemaking software and hopes to work with teachers to integrate gamemaking to enhance curriculum outcomes in academic subject areas.

## Jackson teachers raise awareness of men's health issues

November is an annual November event where men, fondly referred to as mo-bros, raise awareness of men's health issues by growing mustaches together. The official Web site encourages monetary sponsorships that support prostate cancer research. <http://us.movember.com/>

Several Jackson middle school and high school teachers held a hair-raising contest in honor of JMMS guidance counselor, Luis Lacourt who successfully battled prostate cancer last summer and has since made an effort to encourage men to seek early and regular screenings.

Last October, Mr. Lacourt led a half time presentation at the Jackson-Perry football game. Aultman Hospital and Canton Urology participated by distributing over 4,000 pieces of awareness literature. Twenty-five prostate cancer survivors



were honored on the 50-yard-line, and 700 shirts were sold to raise \$11,000 for the prostate cancer nonprofit which Mr. Lacourt started.

The Jackson mo-bros took weekly photos of their progress, and five retired Jackson teachers judged the piliferous results at an after-school event. We'll let you decide who is most manly.

## World Weather

Students in Miss Kaylee Jones' 7th grade science classes made creative presentations to teach each other about the world's climate zones. They wrote books, songs, and poems, made posters, acted out scenes, and made dioramas to get their weather points across.



MORE PICTURES AT [www.facebook.com/jacksonschools](http://www.facebook.com/jacksonschools)

# World Wizards compete in JMMS Geography Bee

In December, JMMS middle school students, grades 6-8, went head to head, or should we say continent to continent, country to country, city to city, in a building-level Geography Bee led by JMMS Social Studies teacher Mike Heidy with help from fellow teachers Anne Snow, Erin Johnson, Larry Baker and Evan Elliott.



John Skakun



Jeremiah Kincaid

After five challenging rounds of questions, Zara Siddiquee, George Kondev, Tyler Smith, Ethan Burns, Jeremiah Kincaid, Alex Fahmy, and John Skakun advanced to the semifinals.

The championship round turned out to be a rematch from the last year as 7th grader Jeremiah Kincaid and eight grader John Skakun rose to the top again. John finally edged Jeremiah out, winning the chance to test into the state competition, as he did the previous year.

"We won't know John's test results until March, but I believe he has a great chance to qualify to compete at state again," said Mr. Heidy.

State qualifiers compete in an oral competition. If John wins at state, he will go to the National Geographic headquarters in Washington D.C. where Alex Trebek will preside over the competition for scholarships of \$25,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000.

## JMMS student sponsors a less fortunate child

This holiday season, JMMS 7th grader Brooke Lambert decided to use \$38 per month of her own money to sponsor a child in India through Compassion International offered through her church, Rivertree. Brooke's generous monthly contribution provides Priyanka Rana, an eight-year-old girl in India, with health check-ups, nutritional supplements, vaccinations, an education, the gospel, games, sports, work relief opportunities, and child development training for her parents.



commitment to another human being, and that it should not be stopped until that child becomes and adult. Brooke uses the social security funds she began receiving after the death of her father.

"I have everything I need, so I want to give someone else a normal life that they can enjoy," Brooke said, explaining, "I

have been through a lot in my life and I could have chosen to be mean and dark, but bad things happen to people every day. I want to be seen as someone who would help others."

Because Brooke's family has sponsored a little boy, named Akhil, for the past eight years, Brooke is well aware that sponsorship is a long-term

"I am so proud of this very adult decision that Brooke made, as well as her compassionate heart," said Brooke's mother, Dawn Bowman.

## JMMS student athletes bring it

Jackson Memorial Middle School had 175 Fall Sport athletes who earned an average GPA of 3.46. "We expect our athletes to be student-athletes, with the emphasis on student," said JMMS Athletic Director Dan Michel.

## JMMS Winter Concert

Under the direction of Ms. Jennifer Vaughn, the 8th grade choir performed its winter concert on the JHS stage, singing folk songs, multicultural songs, jazz, and traditional and modern holiday songs. The Chamber Ensemble, an auditioned group of 6th, 7th and 8th graders, performed two songs as well.



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### High-Tech Holiday Fun

When Santa's favorite Christmas album was ruined, the North Pole gang introduced Santa to their own brand of music with the help of iPods, playlists, headsets, and docking stations! The elves were into Motown. The reindeer loved country-western, Crystal Snowflake was heading for Broadway, and the toy soldiers were a-rockin' and a-rollin'. Under the fine direction of music teachers Amanda Potts and Ashley Bullach, 130 Sauder fourth graders proudly presented the musical, *Santa's Holiday Playlist*.

### Strausser

Mrs. Neff, school counselor, and her Strausser Cub Council organized a Polar Bears Helping Polar Bears Holiday Drive. In November, Strausser parents, students and staff donated \$490 in gift cards, \$2535 in cash, four turkeys, five homemade loaves of bread, and countless canned goods to provide Thanksgiving meals for 12 Polar Bear Families. Also contributing to the effort were: Jackson Lions Club, Fifth Third Bank of Jackson Township, Pizza Hut in Green, and the McDonaldsville United Methodist Church.

Each grade level collected monetary donations for charities of their choice and presented the donations during the holiday sing.

Kindergarten - Pathway Caring for Children \$382.54

First Grade - Akron Children's Hospital - Children Who Witness Violence Program \$469.12

Second Grade - Be a Match \$459.85 This charity is special to Strausser. It matches bone marrow donors for cancer patients, and a Strausser parent who is currently in need of a transplant was on hand to accept the donation. It costs \$100 to process each potential donor and at the pancake breakfast staff assisted the charity to sign up and swab donor's mouths to see if they would match this parent's bone marrow.

Third Grade - As part of Strausser's Operation Fishstick Christmas, 3rd graders answered an urgent need, earlier than usual, for Project Hope, whose food shelves were near empty. Hope Ministries, located in downtown Canton, provides a haven of rest, warmth, and food for those in need. Hope volunteers also take to the streets of Canton, handing out food and blankets to the homeless. Hope representative, Marilyn Roman, visited Strausser to accept part of Strausser's donation early: over 50 blankets, 666 food items, and \$572.

Fourth Grade - Stark County Hunger Task Force \$691.82

Fifth Grade - Pegasus Farm \$521.20.



### Lake Cable

The Lake Cable Student Council sponsored a collection for Shelbi's Sweets and Treats, a nonprofit ice cream truck business in which 100% of the proceeds are used to bring joy to families dealing with childhood cancer. Lake Cable students donated six large boxes filled with crayons, markers, stickers, bookmarks, fun band aides, construction paper, colored pencils, books, tattoos, coloring books and other fun things to do while being served at Akron Children's Hospital. Lake Cable also conducted its annual food drive for St. Michael's Church.

### Amherst

Amherst students participated in Operation Santa Claus through Heartland Behavioral Health Care, collecting a van-load of clothing, cosmetics, and art supplies for adult men and women.

Each of Amherst's 531 students wrote a letter to Santa. For each letter, Macy's made a \$1 donation to the Make A Wish Foundation.



### Jackson High School

JHS organized a grand effort to assure holiday cheer for 44 families from Amherst, Lake Cable, Sauder, JMMS and JHS. The total of children from those families assisted were 97. Each child received a pair of pants, a shirt, a pair of shoes, gloves, a hat, a scarf, and a toy. The families received one or more reusable storage bins of items that also included a ham, fresh bread, a wide variety of canned and boxed food items, toiletries, and household necessities. All of the gift items were wrapped and bowed before being made available, discretely, to the parents. Nearly every student and faculty member participates in this annual project. Many Jackson families and businesses also pitch in to make the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays brighter for these Jackson families in need.

In addition, Strausser Elementary staff and students were able to assist 12 of their own school families this year (including 34 children). Each family received gift cards (so that parents could enjoy doing the shopping), pantry items, a turkey, and homemade bread.

The Varsity "J" Club sponsored a spare change collection to help feed Jackson families. The \$270 collected was donated to the Rivertree food pantry. The JHS Phys Ed. classes participated in the Santa Shuffle, a 1.5 mile fun run/walk, collecting \$650 for the school's Adopt-A Family program. JHS Key Club would held a successful craft show and bake sale which raised \$1036.55 for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

*The holidays found Jackson students singing songs of the season and giving from their hearts.*

### JMMS

For Thanksgiving, JMMS faculty and students provided nine families with baskets of canned goods and a \$25 gift certificate for a turkey. For Christmas, they provided nine families with baskets of canned goods and a \$25 gift certificate to Fishers for groceries. In addition, they gave 16 families \$100 Old Navy gift cards and 10 families \$50 Target gift cards. In total the faculty and staff raised \$2,450 for the effort and helped over 30 families



### Sauder

Sauder 4th and 5th grades participated in the Project KARE program, sponsored by Stark County Job and Family Services. Each of the eight classrooms adopted a specific child and lavished that child with toys and clothes for Christmas. Project KARE addresses the needs of abused, neglected or dependent children and their families, showing them that the Stark County Community cares about them.

Sauder students also donated pet food for Meals on Wheels. The food is used to feed the pets belonging to shut-ins helped by Meals on Wheels.

Second Grade - collected personal care items for soldiers

Third Grade - Operation Christmas Child - filling shoeboxes with gifts for children around the world.

## KIDS ON THE COVER

- P** Grace Shafer & Jenna Lutz
- O** Sidney Middleton & Alex Roth
- L** Syler Voit & Andrew Wyss
- A** Mary Starcher & Jaxson McDaniel
- R** Raquel Stoll

- B** Ella Petit
- E** Alana Lubinsky
- A** Kylie Hawke & Aaron Waltman
- R** Brady Hanke

- P** Olivia Humbert
- R** Ava Chevalier
- I** Zackary Ayav
- D** Gideon Oester
- E** Joseph Lattarulo

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2012-13 SCHOOL CALENDAR	
<b>Feb.</b>	5 Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-12) 4:30-7:30
	13 Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-12) 4:30-7:30
	15 Waiver Day - No School (K-12)
	18 Presidents' Day - No School (K-12)
<b>Mar.</b>	22 End 3rd 9 weeks - 47 days
	25 Spring Break Begins
<b>April</b>	1 Classes Resume
<b>May</b>	11 Prom
	16 Senior Awards
	20 Graduation
	23 Last Day for Students & Staff



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### Board Meeting Schedule

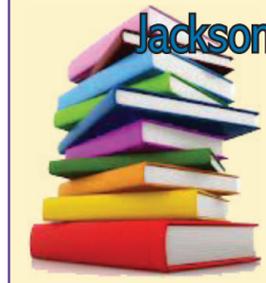
February 19	..... Jackson Middle School	.....6:00 p.m.
March 19	..... Jackson High School	.....6:00 p.m.
April 23	..... Jackson High School	.....6:00 p.m.
May 21	..... Jackson High School	.....6:00 p.m.
June 25	..... Jackson High School	.....6:00 p.m.
July 23	..... Jackson High School	.....6:00 p.m.
August 27	..... Jackson High School	.....6:00 p.m.
September 24	..... Jackson High School	.....6:00 p.m.
October 22	..... Sauder Elementary	.....6:00 p.m.
November 19	..... Lake Cable Elementary	.....6:00 p.m.
December 17	..... Amherst Elementary	.....6:00 p.m.

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

## Jackson Branch Library Programs

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## Young voters learn about the U. S. election process

After learning about the presidential candidates and how an election works, Amherst 3rd grade students in Jenna Tornabene's class held a mock election based on the candidates in three books, *Duck for President*, *Grace for President* and *My Teacher for President*. Students created a list of pros and cons about each candidate, made campaign signs and wrote persuasive pieces aimed at convincing other classmates to vote for another candidate. On Election Day, Nov. 6, students showed their self-made voter registration cards and stepped into the classroom voting booth. They counted the votes and graphed the data, and.... "The winner was.....me," said Mrs. Tornabene.



Students pictured: Hannah Earlenbaugh voting for her candidate, Corynne Sommers holding her voter registration card and "I voted" sticker, Devon Gotch shading in his graph to show the voting data for each candidate, and McKinzie Lovaty showing her graph.



## Amherst buddies unite

Amherst Elementary, 5th and 2nd grade buddy classes worked together to decorate over 100 bags with encouraging messages and Christmas pictures for recipients who might otherwise be forgotten at Christmas time. Faith in Action, a volunteer group, filled the bags with many items such as canned foods, bath items, snacks, grocery/restaurant gift cards, and clothing. The older and younger students partner on several projects throughout the year, creating leadership opportunities for the older students and a feeling of specialness in the younger students who look up to the 5th graders.



## Amherst brings down the house with "Yes Virginia"

Under the direction of Amherst music teacher, Cindy Grove, 77 Amherst students performed in YES, VIRGINIA THE MUSICAL, Dec. 10 on the high school stage. Mrs. Grove won a \$1,000 grant from the Macy's Believe program to produce the show. Because the script was written for 27 students, Mrs. Grove re-wrote it to add a part for every child. The musical was also originally written

for older students, but Mrs. Grove knew her seven-year-olds were up to the task. "We begin working on their voices and facial expressions in kindergarten," she said. "People underestimate kids all the time. I just set the standards high and our students achieve them because they are every bit as good as kids we see on TV and Broadway."

At the end of the performance, the manager of Macy's at Westfield Belden Village, Jon Burke, came on stage to receive a large box of letters written by Amherst students. The Macy's "Believe" program donated \$1 to Make-A-Wish for every letter to Santa they received.



## Geography and Design

Lori Morton's Lake Cable 4th graders used a computer program called Comic Life to create vocabulary images and definitions associated with the study of Ohio's geography.

From left are: Hope Fehrenbach, Thomas Simakis, Carly Jokovich, and Alexa Gossett.



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## Turkey Time

Shannon Pickens Lake Cable kindergarten had fun making the proper head gear and eating the Thanksgiving feast prepared by family and enjoyed at school.

## Holiday Musical

Wearing the reindeer and angel sweat shirts they made using their hand and foot prints, Lake Cable kindergartners performed their very sweet and riotously entertaining holiday musical.



## Starlab comes to Lake Cable

Second graders took off their shoes and crawled through the dark, winding tunnel to find themselves under the stars inside the portable, blow-up planetarium called Starlab. There, they learned about the heavens from teacher Dave Weisburn. The planetarium annually travels to each of the elementary schools.

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## SAUDER ELEMENTARY



### Venerated Veteran

Sauder Elementary 5th graders in Mr. Blackstock's class celebrated Veteran's Day with 96-year-old, George Musat, a World War II veteran. Mr. Musat engaged the students with stories from his military career and answered their many questions.

### Cartoonist inspires Sauder test-takers

Third graders at Sauder had the privilege of hearing Mr. Duane Abel speak about his life as a cartoonist and how hard work pays off. His important and inspiring message helped get the students pumped up for the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA). All 3rd graders in the district took the OAA test. As a post-test reward, the students walked to the Jackson North Park for a fun-filled afternoon with friends.



### Animal Research

After Sauder 1st graders sharpened their research skills to discover and learn about a variety of animals, Outback Ray and 11 of his exotic animal friends rewarded the students with a visit.

MORE PICTURES AT [www.facebook.com/jacksonschools](http://www.facebook.com/jacksonschools)

# Mealworms and Marigolds

Strausser students in grade three had a great time, with the help of their teachers and some amazing parent volunteers, preparing mealworm and marigold habitats to kick off the life cycle units in science. Over several weeks, students observed mealworms throughout their life cycle and observed the growth and change of a marigold plant from seed to flower.



## Scientific Discovery

Mrs. Ray's Science students at Strausser Elementary built their own habitat called a Hay Infusion and looked through the microscope for microorganisms living there. Pictured are



## Celebrating Thanksgiving

Mrs. Michael's Strausser first graders celebrated Thanksgiving with a feast prepared by students' families. The students also made the pilgrim hats they are sporting and decorated special placemats for the occasion.

# Strausser students honor our nation's veterans

For Veterans Day, the entire Strausser student body and staff gathered in the gymnasium to honor our nation's veterans.

After saying a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Sgt. Nicholas Babos, with a tear in his eye, presented Strausser principal Susanne Waltman and students Ben and Hannah Holzopfel with a flag that had been flown over Camp Deh Dadi II in Afghanistan where Sgt. Babos served. Ben and Hannah had previously led their schoolmates in a care package campaign for the soldiers in Sgt. Babos' unit.

Cub Scout Pack 935 from McDonaldsville Church held a separate flag for the Pledge and later raised it on the school's flag pole.

Sgt. Babos and Sgt. Jim Youngdahl answered questions from the students about Veterans Day, war, and life in the U.S. Military.



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# Alum dots the Script Ohio i



With over 100,000 people in the stands, Chelsey Long, a 2008 Jackson grad and current tuba player in The Ohio State University Band, dotted the “i” at the Nov. 3 OSU game.

The honor of dotting the “i” is offered to an outstanding 4-year band member who plays the sousaphone, and to the occasional celebrity (Woody Hayes, Bob Hope, John Glenn, Gordon Gee, Buster



Photos courtesy of Ed Crockett / The Ohio State University Marching Band

## Alum is member of the 53rd Electoral College

Dan Traicoff, 2009 Jackson grad, was elected to be a delegate to the 2012 Democratic Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Later that year, he campaigned for was chosen as a member of the 53rd Electoral College where he cast one of Ohio’s 18 Electoral votes, electing President Obama to a second term.

Dan recently returned to Jackson High to speak to AP Government students on his political experience. A political science and communications major at the University of Cincinnati (UC), he recalled the excitement of the Democratic Convention amid the funny hats and uproarious applause in a torrent of confetti when it was announced that Ohio had put Obama over the edge to victory.

He told students about his senior year, sitting in a JHS classroom and repeatedly hearing government teacher Ben Ghiloni say, “Your voice is louder than you perceive.”

That’s the year Dan became a charter member of Jackson’s Environmental Club. He and fellow members educated and encouraged the student body to recycle. In addition to a variety of efforts, club members would dig through the trash at Friday night football games to separate paper from plastic. The activism ignited

Douglas, and Jack Nicklaus). Script Ohio dates back to 1936 and is considered by many to be the most famous marching band tradition in history.

“It was surreal to be able to realize my eight-year goal,” Chelsey said.

Chelsey began as a flute player in 5th grade and continued in the JHS Concert Band. But she had a dream to dot that Script Ohio “i”, so, in her freshman year at JHS, she added the sousaphone to her talents, playing the flute in concert band and taking to the field with that big brass horn for marching season.

To dot the Script Ohio “i”, Chelsea attended six practice sessions with the band to perfect the famous strut, and practiced the movements independently at least 20 times.

“All of the movements are awkward, especially with a 40 pound instrument,” she said.

Chelsey credited her high school teachers with a measure of her ability and success. “Jackson prepared me so well academically and musically. The band directors (Tom Holiday, David Gleason, Michele Monigold, and Amy Sullivan)

have such a passion for teaching and for music and they made it so exciting that I wanted to pursue band in college.

Mr. Holiday and Mr. Gleason, and English teacher Jill Clapper attended the OSU game to see Chelsey make the strut.

“They were always an inspiration to me, and to see them there was incredible,” Chelsey said.

Also in the stands were about 30 of Chelsey’s family and friends. “I have the best, most supportive family,” she said, explaining that one or more members of her family attended every practice the summer she tried out for the OSU Band.

Chelsey’s mom, Jacque, cried tears of joy as she watched her daughter in action at the top of the “i”. “It was so emotional, seeing her fulfill one of her dreams,” Mrs. Long said.

Chelsey will graduate in May with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. She has accepted a position as a sales engineer with Ingersoll-Rand in Charlotte, North Carolina.

a political passion in Dan which he took to the University of Cincinnati where he did some phone banking and canvassing for Governor Strickland and three other political candidates.

“Phone banking was hard, but we made a difference,” Dan passionately told the JHS government students.

That passion compelled Dan to revive the campus chapter of UC Democrats. Only two people showed up at his first meeting, and it angered him. “My generation thinks it can change things politically by commenting on Facebook. Well, that’s not activism. I call it slacktivism.” With Dan as president, the UC Democrats swelled to 80 members.

Dan is proud of the way Cincinnati’s college Democrats and Republicans to work together. “Congress needs to come and learn from UC students,” he said. “We treat each other with mutual respect and civility, searching for places where we agree. I like them as people even though I often disagree with them politically.”

Dan intrigued JHS students with stories of meeting the president, Jerry Springer and Natalie Portman, being on stage with Stevie Wonder, attending a party with Nick Cannon, and becoming friends with



Dan with the President Obama

the current mayor of Cincinnati. He also attended this year’s Inaugural Ball.

Dan knows it’s not about meeting famous people or attending conventions, but more so a chance to have an effect on policy-making that affects people. “That’s why I will work in politics for the rest of my life,” he said.

Recounting the adventure of casting an Electoral College vote, Dan told the JHS students, “The average age of an electoral college member is 58. I’m 21. Show up, and you will learn how important your voice is. Whatever you believe in, get involved. Register to vote. Register others to vote. People have died for your right to do so.”

## Student performs duet with Stark State music professor

Zachary Charlick, a 4th grader at Strausser Elementary, was honored to sing a duet *Pie Jesu* from *Requiem* by Andrew Lloyd Webber with the Kent State Stark Concert Band in December. It was a challenging and unique experience for him, but knowing his talent, his music teacher, Suzanne Walters recommended him for the part and volunteered her time to coach him. Also coaching Zachary was his duet partner, Laurel Seeds, professor of Music at Kent Stark. Zachary's previous stage roles include: Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol* at the Players Guild Theatre in Canton, the title role in *Oliver* with Carnation City Players in Alliance, Genie in *Aladdin*, Baloo in Disney's *Jungle Book* and Tom Sawyer in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* at the Jackson School for the Arts Summer Camp. He has also appeared in several productions with the Jackson Community Theater. When he's not acting, singing, dancing or playing the cello, Zachary enjoys reading, board games, magic tricks, cooking, gardening and creating inventions.



Zachary with Laurel Seeds, Professor of Music at Kent Stark and Suzanne Walters, music teacher at Strausser.

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## Amherst and Strausser earn Battelle for Kids SOAR Award

Congratulations to the Amherst and Strausser students and faculty for being two of 15 elementary schools in the state to win the Battelle for Kids SOAR Award for exceptional academic progress. A team of teachers traveled to Columbus on November 12 to receive the award.



## Polar Puppy Power

Part of Lake Cable's literacy intervention program includes puppy power. Mrs. Gabriele's 1st Grade Polar Time group poses with Miss Katrina Marvin and her Lhasa-Bichon, Riley, who visits twice a month to listen to the children read. Riley is a non-judgemental listener.



## Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

Sauder 2nd graders received a gift of bubbles from the Christmas elf who regularly visited their classroom. The elf's name was Bubbles, and his instructions to the children were to blow lots of bubbles and he would try to bring snow. It worked, to the joy of some and dismay of many. "Oh the joy of the spirit of belief," said their teacher Lori Bly.

## Cheering for a cure

JMMS 8th grade cheerleaders cheered on 8500 walkers at a recent Breast Cancer walk, an event that raised more than \$200,000 for breast cancer research. The girls not only performed for the crowd but also walked through the rain for 3.2 miles.

From left are Lisa Warden (Cheer Mom) and cheerleaders Macey Warden, Rachel Immel, Sophia Sponsellor, Madison Gill, and Alyssa Holder.



## Magnetic Cafeteria Menu thank you and apology

We wish to thank Aultman Health Foundation for funding the magnetic cafeteria magnets that we issued to elementary school families last school year. We are sorry that we could not issue the magnets this year, even though Aultman again offered to fund them. A paper version of our permanent menu was issued because the Federal Government has mandated new and very specific nutritional regulations that are still being finalized. As your food service director, it is important to me to meet these requirements for the benefit of your children and to also taste-test food items for student appeal before we agree on a permanent menu.

We expect to be able to offer the magnetic menu next school year, as the lunch items will be finalized, and so many of you have indicated that you found the magnet very useful.

Marsha Escola, JLS Food Service Director



From left are Ruthanne Wilkof, Jennifer Jones, Mark Belgya, and Mark Wright raffling off an iPad at a recent event.

## Group raises funds for new foundation

The newly-formed Jackson Local Schools Foundation intends to raise \$100,000 in donations as a first step in an ongoing campaign to provide students, teachers, and the district as a whole with a private resource to enhance classroom excellence.



### WHY A FOUNDATION?

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- Most area school districts have had foundations for decades.
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### HOW WILL FUNDS BE USED?

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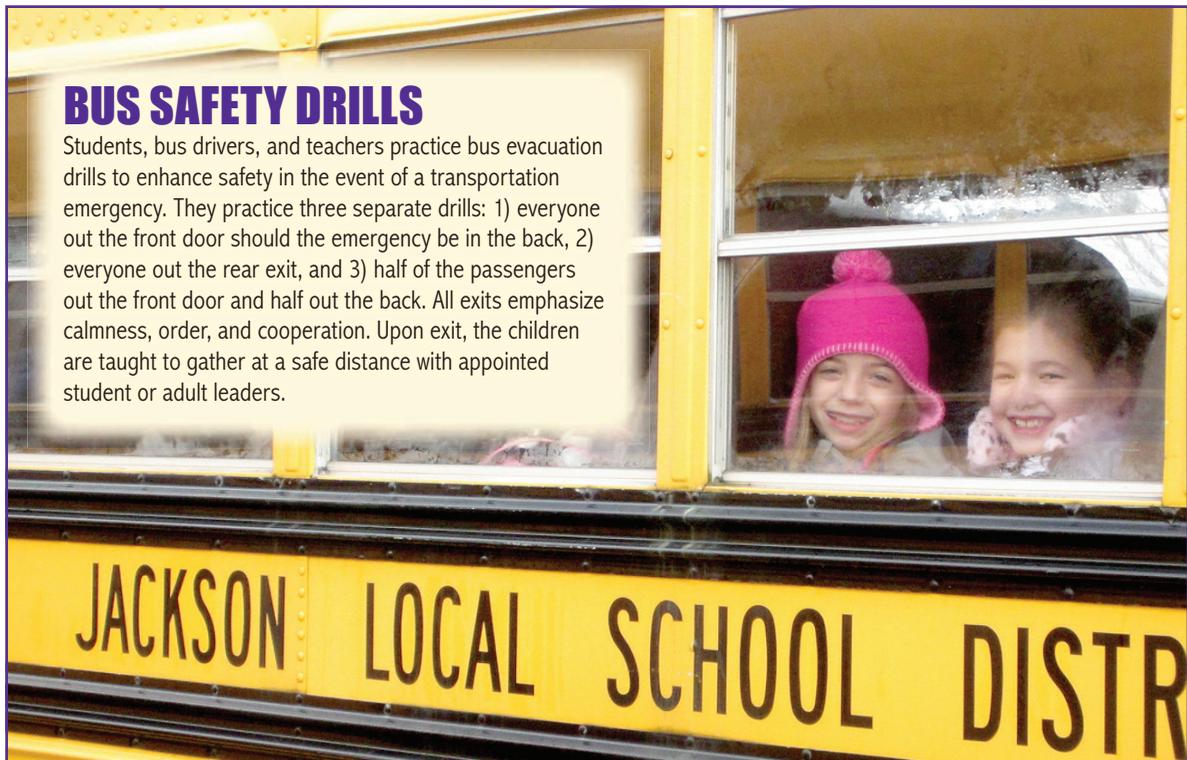
- Make a monetary donation.
- Sign up to work on Special Committees. An event is being planned. Your help is needed to make it a success.
- Help with administrative details.
- Serve on the Board of Directors.

**Phone: 330-830-8075**

**Email: [jacksonlocalfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonlocalfoundation@gmail.com)**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Katrina Barton	Greg Brokaw	Paul Malesick	Jim Williamson
Mark Belgya	Susan Gardner	Jeff Moloney	Mark Wright
Paula Blangger	Chris Holding	Marian Manns	
	Jennifer Jones	Ruthanne Wilkof	



## BUS SAFETY DRILLS

Students, bus drivers, and teachers practice bus evacuation drills to enhance safety in the event of a transportation emergency. They practice three separate drills: 1) everyone out the front door should the emergency be in the back, 2) everyone out the rear exit, and 3) half of the passengers out the front door and half out the back. All exits emphasize calmness, order, and cooperation. Upon exit, the children are taught to gather at a safe distance with appointed student or adult leaders.



## BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

The Jackson Local School District has an immediate need for substitute school bus drivers. Substitute Drivers earn \$16.25 per hour and work as needed, approximately to 3 to 4 hours per day. Candidates should have a current class 'B' or class 'A' CDL with both a 'P' (Passenger) and 'S' (School Bus) endorsement. Candidates who are current with their ODE certification will be given first consideration. Candidates must also be fingerprinted and pass an FBI/BCI background check, TB test, physical, drug test, and complete training at the Jackson Local Transportation Department. If you are interested in becoming a driver, please apply online at <https://jacksonoh.cloud.talentedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>. Questions can be directed to the Transportation Office at (330)830-8042.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- It takes 84 part-time bus drivers to get Jackson school children to 16 locations throughout the county, in addition to our six buildings.
- Jackson school buses logged 1,311,276 miles last year for daily delivery, athletic events, and educational field trips.
- The district buys approximately 112,199 gallons of diesel fuel per year. A bus gets 6-9 miles per gallon. A recent diesel purchase price was \$3.39 per gallon.
- Because Jackson carefully maintains its buses, they last from 15-17 years.

**POLAR BEAR PRIDE  
JACKSON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
7984 FULTON DRIVE  
MASSILLON, OHIO 44646**

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