

# Striving for Excellence



January 2008 Vol 15, Issue 3

A Periodical of the Jackson Local Schools

Circulation 21,000

## JHS students and faculty are top blood donors

**AULTMAN** To honor JHS students' ongoing dedication to blood donation, the Aultman Blood Center has presented JHS with five \$500 college scholarships to be distributed to seniors as the schools sees fit. The Blood Center awards these scholarships to area schools based on the number of usable units collected. During the most recent drive, 176 JHS students and faculty donated 142 usable units. "In the past few years, over 700 JHS students and faculty have donated," said Kelly Hettinger, Aultman's Blood Center recruitment coordinator. "Jackson donates more than any other area school, and the students are so well behaved," she added.

## Kindergarten Registration

Registration for students planning to attend kindergarten in the Jackson Local Schools during the 2008-2009 school year will be held February 4-8, from 9:30 to 2:30 at all of our elementary schools. There will also be evening registration February 7 from 4:30-7:00 p.m. If you have a first grade child new to the Jackson Local School District, you are also welcome to register him/her during kindergarten registration week. You are not required to bring your children with you to registration. Forms will be available online.

## Put me on the E-List

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



## Bears march in Fiesta Bowl Parade

The Jackson Band will perform in the Fiesta Bowl Parade on December 29. While in Arizona, the students will get a taste of the American southwest through various activities, culminating in a rail trip to the Grand Canyon.

Please note that **no school money is used for the band's trips.** Those who elect to travel, pay their own expenses.

The band, with its long tradition of excellence, has performed

See **BAND**, page 4



**AN OHIO FIRST**  
Jackson's Michael Davis is Ohio's all-time, top-scoring student.

At the FFA National Conference from left are: Courtney Crawford, Kevin Davis, Michael Davis, Sara Gribble, Lindsay King, and Jackson horticulture technology instructor Mr. John Allen.

## Jackson horticulture among nation's best

The JHS Landscape Nursery Team was awarded a National FFA Silver Emblem, placing 13th in the nation at the 80th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis last October.

Team members Courtney Crawford, Kevin Davis, Michael Davis, Sara Gribble, and Lindsay King were directed by their horticulture teacher Mr. John Allen.

In individual competition, Sara Gribble and Lindsay King received bronze medals.

Kevin Davis placed 17th in the nation and received a

Kubota Tractor for his fine performance.

*"It's exciting, and a lot of people seem very proud of me, but I feel there's many greater things I can do. I want to go to OSU for landscape design and horticulture and someday own my own landscape design firm here in Ohio. There's a lot of opportunity here. I would hire every member of this team because of their dedication and pride. We all have one goal—doing what's best for the environment and doing the best we can."*

— **Michael Davis**

gold medal. Michael Davis received a gold medal, placing 10th in the nation. In the long history of this competition, Michael is Ohio's all-time, top-scoring student. He was awarded a \$500 college scholarship from

Each of 45 teams from across the nation competed in the grueling two-day contest that demanded impromptu landscape designs, plant identification, equipment identification, impromptu customer service challenges, customer business letter writing, propagation and potting of nursery stock, and a 100-question written test of knowledge and skills.

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### No levy on May ballot, but need still real

At my recommendation, and after much discussion, the Board of Education has decided not to place a levy on the March 4 ballot. Please do not misunderstand. The levy need is real, and I will recommend that a levy be placed on the November ballot. Perhaps this will give us some much needed time to meet with our parents and community to explore the following areas in depth.



**Superintendent  
Cheryl Haschak**

All of this takes time and face-to-face meetings to explain in detail. The days of a simple brochure to explain the need a few weeks before the election are over.

Levy communications also require time to raise private campaign funds.

I feel that a November levy request would provide us the necessary time to raise the funds and have a quality dialogue with our community. No matter if we passed a levy at the March, August, or November election, no funds would be collected until January of 2009.

We need to be sure the entire community is aware that we have responded to their requests to reduce expenditures in the following ways:

- We need time to come to consensus as a community on athletic and course fees.
- Northeast Ohio has not recovered economically, and this has a negative effect on school funding.
- We need time to explain to our community why we cannot have a zero balance before requesting new money. I fear that Jackson voters falsely believe their school system is fiscally sound, therefore not in need of levy support.
- We need to talk about how critical an outstanding school system attracts business to this area and how having an outstanding school system is critical to a great work force.

- eliminating administrators
- implementing an administrative wage freeze
- staff paying toward health insurance
- offering retirement incentive to older staff in order to hire younger staff at the lower end of the pay scale
- balancing the cafeteria budget
- condensing high school and middle school busing
- reducing classified staff
- accepting tuition students

I feel we need to work hard in the months between now and November to explain the costs of educating students in this day and age. Here is a small sampling of our costs:

- the ongoing costs of computers/technology
- cost of post secondary options and dual credits for high school students. This is when students can attend college for credits during the school day and the district is responsible for paying the bill.
- escalating cost of educating special needs students
- rising cost of electricity, gas, diesel
- minimum wage increase
- cost of attracting the brightest and best teachers for our students
- cost of health insurance for our staff
- cost of building security to keep our students and staff as safe as possible

It is quite clear, according to our five-year forecast that Jackson Local is not fiscally sound unless a levy is passed. There are no further cuts we can make without hurting our educational program and ultimately our children's future. We have not passed additional taxes for the day-to-day operations of our schools since May of 2001.

Despite poor economic conditions, excellent schools are still one of the best investments in the quality of life in Jackson Township.

Cheryl Haschak  
Jackson Local Superintendent

### Consider hosting a coffee

You can help us by hosting a small-group coffee in your home. Invite about 10 of your friends, family and colleagues. We will come to listen, to learn, and to aid your understanding of what we face daily in the way of budget restraints and state mandates. We want to hear your thoughts and better understand what you want from your schools as we go forward together in this uncertain economy. If you are willing to host us, simply call the central office at 330-830-8000.



## SCHOOL AS BUSINESS

### Public records can confuse and mislead

Making sense of school district numbers is difficult. Even though the state posts plenty of information on its Web site, and our books are open, the numbers can be misleading. Following is one example.

All funding is tied to the number of students we serve. But what is that number? A simple question like how many students are enrolled in Jackson Local Schools can elicit four different answers, depending on which report you access.

There's the Education Management Information System Report (EMIS), the School Foundation Report (SF3), the Warm Body Count, and finally, the Auditor's Report. Each of these reports collects information in different ways, for different reasons, and often produces numbers that do not match.

If you access the SF3 or the EMIS report, you will see enrollment numbers that are higher than our Warm Body Count.

Why?

The SF3 and EMIS count the number of public school students who reside in Jackson Township but might not actually attend school in one of our six buildings. The Warm Body Count records the actual number of students sitting in chairs inside our six buildings.

The SF3 and EMIS reports not only list students who attend classes in our schools, but also students who attend full-time at schools/programs elsewhere, such as:

- county sponsored special education units, EXCEL, LEAP, and special ed preschool
- other districts through open enrollment
- other districts as tuition students
- other districts because of foster care placement

- Tech Prep (vocational) programs at other high schools
- charter schools
- college (post secondary options)
- the Juvenile Attention Center, the Department of Youth Services Facility, or PASSAGES (for at risk youths)

Although we receive basic funding for each of the students in the aforementioned programs, that funding leaves our treasury. It is sent with the child to the alternate school or program they attend. We have no control over the funding set at other institutions. But, we are required to pay the full cost set by that institution even if those programs cost more than we receive in state funding, which is almost always the case.

The basic funding that remains is used to serve the students actually attending classes inside Jackson Local's school buildings.

Annually, the state auditors pull numbers from all the reports to make sure every dollar we received from the state and local tax levies was sent in the right amounts to the various institutions. They also make sure we have spent each dollar according to the law. Jackson local has a long history of clean audits.

Working with these numbers requires close attention and deep understanding. If you access a report online at the Ohio Department of Education or at our Web site, please do not hesitate to ask Superintendent Haschak or our treasurer, Linda Paris, for clarification.

When you take the time to truly understand, you become an asset to the educational process.

The superintendent and treasurer can be reached at 330-830-8000.

### Become a Key Communicator

*A Key Communicator is someone who spends 90 minutes a month, for five months, learning about our school system so they can accurately communicate school-related information to family, friends, and business associates. Key Communicators are among Jackson's most informed citizens.*

*Key Communicator dates are the 3rd Wednesday of the month:*

*Jan. 16*

*Feb. 20*

*Mar. 19*

*Apr. 16*

*May 21*

*Time: All meetings are 7:30-9:00 a.m. at various school locations.*

*Each Key Communicator Class chooses the topics it will explore.*

*If you would like to become a Key Communicator, call Paula Blangger at 330-497-0883.*

### PUBLIC RECORD VOCABULARY

**EMIS REPORT** - A statewide data collection system for Ohio's primary and secondary schools. It includes demographics, attendance, course information, financial data, and test results.

**SCHOOL FOUNDATION (SF3)** - Report used to determine basic funding. The Foundation funding formula is based on a figure assigned by the General Assembly that represents what the state believes it costs to adequately educate one child with no special needs for one year. It also takes into account the number of students with special needs and the ability of a district to raise tax revenues locally. The formula provides more assistance to school districts with low property wealth relative to districts with higher property wealth. Jackson is considered wealthy because of the tax value of the more than 2,300 businesses in our township.

**WARM BODY COUNT** - This is the number of children who actually sit in chairs inside Jackson's six buildings. We need to know this number so we can plan how many teachers, classrooms, desks, and books we need.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT** - The Auditor of State is responsible for auditing all public offices, including cities, villages, schools, universities, counties, and townships to ensure that public funds are spent appropriately and lawfully. Jackson has a long history of clean audits.

# JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL



## Thoroughly Modern Millie

Photo by Mike Diroll

The resoundingly successful fall musical, directed by Mr. Fred Locker and student director Amanda Rearick, put 40 JHS students on stage as actors and singers. Behind the scenes an additional 90 students worked the flies, scene changes, microphones, props, sets, costuming, lights, and make-up. In the pit orchestra, under the musical direction of Mr. Scott Eversdyke, were six students and 10 professional musicians. Nearly 1,900 tickets were sold for three performances, and a dress rehearsal was performed before an audience of 200 Jackson senior citizens at no charge.

## Marching Band Parade History

- 1982 and 1998 - Tournament of Roses Parades
- 1987 and 1991 - Orange Bowl Parades
- 1989 and 1993 - Fiesta Bowl Parades
- 1987, 1991, 1995 - Performances at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida
- 1998 - Disneyland in California
- 1999 - Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City
- Past 22 years - Professional Football Hall of Fame Festival Parade in Canton
- 2002 - Gator Bowl Parade and halftime performance in Jacksonville, Florida
- 2003 - Memorial concert at the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor and the Waikiki Holiday parade in Honolulu
- 2005 - Macy's Holiday Parade at Universal Studios in Orlando Florida.

## BAND... Continued from page 1

for Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush, as well as half-time shows for NFL teams, the Cleveland Browns and the Cincinnati Bengals.

In 1976 the Ohio State Board of Education awarded the band a Bicentennial Award of Patriotism. The band was recognized for its outstanding level of performance by the Ohio House of Representatives in 1982 and was mentioned in the Congressional Record of the 97th Congress by the Honorable Ralph Regula of Ohio.

The Jackson band program has also received many awards and distinctions for its concert groups. All have consistently been rated superior in Ohio Music Education Association adjudicated events. Students in the Jackson band program are very successful in jazz ensemble and numerous small ensemble and solo performances.

The Jackson High School Chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society was awarded Ohio's "Chapter of the Year" and was recognized nationally in Parade Magazine for its contributions to "Make a Difference Day."

## Singers win All-State Choir honors

Erin Diroll and Brett Parr have been selected into the highly competitive and prestigious 2008 Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) All-State Choir. More than 600 applicants submitted solo performance recordings to the




Erin Diroll and Brett Parr

All-State Committee chairs. The 2008 All-State Choir will gather in Cincinnati, February 7-9, for rehearsals with guest conductors before their performances at the annual OMEA Professional Conference at the Cincinnati Convention Center.

**KEEP ON LEARNING**  
Visit Jackson's on-line community education center  
[www.ed2go.com/jtce](http://www.ed2go.com/jtce)

## Join the JHS Alumni Association

<p><b>J. H. S. A. A. Membership</b></p> <p>Date Paid _____</p> <p>Amount _____</p> <p>Check # _____</p> <p>Retain this portion for your records</p>	 <p><b>Jackson High School Alumni Association</b> Membership Form <b>"Once a Bear, Always a Bear!"</b></p>
	<p>Name (First, Last, Maiden) _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone (____) _____ Year of graduation _____</p>
	<p>Annual Membership Fee ..... \$ 10</p> <p>Lifetime Charter Membership (per graduate) ..... \$100</p> <p>Scholarship Contribution (optional) .....</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total Enclosed</b> _____</p>
	<p><b>Please make checks payable and mail to:</b> <b>JHS Alumni Association</b> Post Office Box 35323 • Canton, OH 44735-6323</p>



## Construction Competition

JHS seniors Patrick Sluss and Keith Fleishman have entered the Residential Construction Competition sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders. The competition gives students the opportunity to apply skills learned in the classroom to a real construction project. The boys have prepared a management proposal for an actual project complete with blueprints, labor and materials estimate, and construction schedule. Their work will be judged by a group of construction company executives during the International Builders' Show in Florida next month. There, Patrick and Keith will present and defend their proposal to the judges and an audience. In addition to the companies represented at right, the students thank Harris Day Architects, the Stark State Tech Prep Program, and Steve Smith of Smith Development Corporation.



**Construction technology students Patrick Sluss (seated left) and Keith Fleishman (seated right) are coached by (standing left to right): Javan Yoder of Stark Truss Company; Brian Richardson, JHS construction technology teacher; Pete Eldred, Hammond Construction superintendent on the JHS project; and Jeff Adams, Hammond Construction project manager on the JHS construction project.**



## Running for President

Ashley Bowman fields questions about her imaginary bid for presidency of the United States from a savvy audience of her peers. JHS government students in Mr. Ghiloni's class formed political parties and researched foreign policy, the Iraq war, energy, environment, economy, immigration, abortion, and homeland security so they could publicly debate the issues. The debate was lively and intelligent.

## Art and history hang together

Jackson School for the Arts students and traditional World History students hosted an art gallery for their classmates and the public. They completed an art/history/English assignment that began by researching a composer, musician, or visual artist, then making five-minute presentations to their classmates and visitors from the public. To create the atmosphere of an authentic gallery opening, students dressed up and served hors d'oeuvres to their guests.



**Erica Munoz makes a presentation on the artist Honore` Daumier to Jackson residents Jim and Mary Marchione.**

**POLAR BEAR PRIDE** is published six 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, Jackson Middle School, 7355 Mudbrook NW, Massillon, OH 44646, or pblangger@neo.rr.com

## Spanish Club supports the troops

The JHS Spanish Club continues to send Care Packages to Jackson troops serving our country. Students collect comfort items and non-perishable foods and mail them to our soldiers.

If you have a loved one in military service, our Spanish Club would like them to know we care. Just call club advisor Carol Harmon at 330-837-3501 and provide her with an address.

Below is a partial list of soldiers who have been remembered and thanked by our students.

HM2 Todd J. Osugi	SGT Daniel Bradford	CPL Walter Bowman
SPC Ashlea Bennington	SPC Nicholas Lambert	SGT Earnst Hummer
CPL Brent Sarver Jr.	SGT Schuffer	SPC Jeric Whittaker
SGT Brent Sarver	CPL Peterson	CPT Brian Spurlock
Bradley Banfield	CPL Riveres	Jason DiGiacomo
Roy King-IPOL	SGT Grassley	LCPL Seth Dunlap
LTC Thomas Rogers	SFC Souders	Bradley Banfield
PFC Carl McGee	SPC Dobensky	PVT Robert Ressler
SSG Eric Dutschmann	SPC Drew Stafford	SPEC Jennifer Sutton
Dustin Conrad	Aaron N. Seesan	CPL Justin Sarsany
Stacy Cates	PFC Jason Cleim	SPC Tiffany Leslie
Sean Burnham	SRA John Duell	ET3 Jeremy Priest
Rocky Cheeca		SGT Robert Froman
		Grant Smith

**Stark County High School Seniors –**  
Think you can't afford college

The Paul & Carol David Foundation is a not-for-profit private foundation whose primary mission is to improve education, community, and health opportunities for disadvantaged children in Stark County, Ohio. The **David Scholar Program** awards a **\$5,500** scholarship, renewable for up to four years, to eligible students attending an accredited college or university in the continental U.S.

For more information about the David Scholar Program and How to Apply, contact Becky Duplain at the Paul & Carol David Foundation at 330.479.0200, or visit online at [www.DavidScholar.org](http://www.DavidScholar.org).

Think again!  
**David Scholar Program**

**\$5,500**  
four-year renewable scholarship



WWW.DAVIDSCHOLAR.ORG



## Literacy and art give meaning to learning

After reading the novel Hatchet by Gary Paulsen, sixth grade students in Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Davis's classes designed art or literature projects that focused on the character, setting, or plot of the story. Many students designed shoebox dioramas of the setting. Some students wrote and illustrated ABC books that

included events in the plot. Others created timelines

acting talents to present live or videotaped interviews with the main character.

Pictured front from left are: Haley Parramore, Robyn Gordon, Michael Winkhart, and Colin Brian. Back from left are: Megan Morris, Dana Rupenthal, Madison Sirpilla, Connor Schneider, Kurt Parker, Kinsey Hartline, and Paige Young.

*"The book and project made me appreciate the things I have because Brian (the protagonist) went 54 days with nothing but a hatchet after his plane crashed in the Canadian wilderness."*

— student Haley Parramore

placing the main events of the plot in order to display the main character's traits. Some students used their

## First annual Everyday Math Tournament

In the weeks before Thanksgiving, middle school math teachers Frank Gant, Natalie Voytek, and Laura Shuster held the first annual Everyday Math Game Tournament. It included every student in the 6B community, and it resolved into a 32-man bracket. The four semi-finalists were: Dante Davis (front left), Mitch Aman (front right), Abhishek Bhargava (back left), and Justin Moore (back right). Justin and Abhishek played the final game on November 30, leaving Abhishek the tournament winner.

The tournament was such a hit with students that teachers are considering a second tournament in the spring.





## MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS



### Undefeated



The Jackson 8th Grade Girls' Purple Volleyball Team finished the fall season at 16-0. They won both the Federal League regular season championship and the tournament championship. Front: Amelia Zwald, Olivia Maringo, and Katie Zito. Middle: Madison Ross, Erica Rhines, Ashley Spangler, Madison Haasz, Rachel Spangler, and Emalee Kauth. Back: Kaitlyn Cherniuk, and coach Judy Christine.

### In other JMMS sports

Go  
Bears

The 7th Grade Gold Volleyball Team was also undefeated.

The Boys' Cross Country Team finished 1st in the Federal League meet and 2nd in County Meet.

The Girls' Cross Country Team finished first in County Meet and 2nd in Federal League meet.

The 8th Grade Football Team ended the season with a 5-2 record. Both loses came in overtime.

## ALUMNI NOTES

### Jackson grad and teammate set world powerlifting record

Jackson graduate Cory Martin (2006) recently returned from Orlando, Florida where he competed in the 2007 AAU World Powerlifting Championship at Disney's Wide World of Sports, October 12-14, 2007.

Cory and his teammate Bob Hale of Uniontown, Ohio participated in the competition that consists of three individual events – squat, bench press, and deadlift. Each had three attempts, and both were able to set not only their own individual records but also American and World records. Cory squated 292.1 lbs. bench pressed 181.9 lbs. and deadlifted 347.2 lbs. for a combine total weight of 821.1 lbs. Bob squated 264.6 lbs., bench pressed 214.9 lbs., and deadlifted 325.2 lbs. for a total of 804.7 lbs.



Bob Hale and Cory Martin

Cory, son of Bruce and Cinde Martin of Jackson Township, is employed at Stark MRDD Whipple Dale in the dock area. He is a member of the Challenger Baseball League, Special Olympics basketball team, and Stark MRDD swim team. Bob, son of Tom and Phyllis Hale of Uniontown, is a 2004 graduate of GlenOak. He is employed at Stark MRDD Whipple Dale in the dock area and is on the Special Olympics tennis team as well as the Stark MRDD swim team. Both men train at Henry's Dynatorium in Canton.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEB SITE  
[jacksonpolarbearsalumni.org](http://jacksonpolarbearsalumni.org)

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

<b>Jan.</b>	3	Th.	Classes Resume (K-12)
	17	Th.	End 2nd Nine Weeks
	18	Fri.	Teacher In-service – No School (K-12)
	21	Mon.	Martin Luther King Day – No School (K-12)
<b>Feb.</b>	7	Th.	Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-12) 4:30-7:30
	13	Wed.	Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-12) 4:30-7:30
	18	Mon.	President's Day – No School (K-12)
<b>Mar.</b>	20	Th.	End 3rd Nine Weeks
	21	Fri.	No School (K-12)
	24	Mon.	Spring Recess Begins
	31	Mon.	Exchange Day P/T Conferences, No School (K-12)
<b>April</b>	1	Tue.	Classes Resume
	14	Mon.	Teacher In-service – No School (K-12)
<b>May</b>	26	Mon.	Memorial Day – No School (K-12)
<b>June</b>	5	Th.	Last Student Day

Visit the Jackson Local Web site at  
<http://jackson.stark.k12.oh.us>

## NOTICE

### BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

We have a severe shortage of bus drivers. If you are interested in becoming a driver, please pick up an application at the Administration Office, 7984 Fulton Drive, Massillon, OH 44646. Drivers earn \$15.46 per hour and work 3 to 4 hours per day. The job requires attendance at a week-long class offered by the state. You must also be fingerprinted, have a background check, a TB test, a physical, a drug test, training at the Jackson Local bus garage, and pass the Commercial Driver's License Test. Call Lisa Irwin at 330-8042 if you have questions.

## Board bids Manns fond farewell, welcomes Goff

This January Marian Manns will move on from her 28-year post as a member of the Jackson Local Board of Education. Since 1980, she served alongside 13 other board members, watched three superintendents take the helm, and hired the county's first female high school administrator (current superintendent Cheryl Haschak). She oversaw policy-making from the era of no computers, to a few computers per school, to computers in every classroom.

She has watched girls' sports go from a nice after-school activity to Federal League status under Title IX. The Center for Performing Arts auditorium at the high school was built 20 years ago with the long vision of Mrs. Manns and the 1987 board. That facility

still fully serves the district's needs today. That same long vision has been present as we have built additions to every building in our district, including the recent addition of 150,000 square feet to the high school. Most recently, Mrs. Manns served on a committee to raise the community funds that built the Jackson YMCA, a long-awaited home for the JHS Swim Team. Her

*"I feel privileged to have served with an outstanding team of board members and educators who created a top-notch school system. It has been my joy to watch it grow."*

– MARIAN MANNs



board decisions have always been carefully made with fiscal restraint and unabashed dedication to the ideal of excellence for the children and families of Jackson Township. She knows that good schools are a great investment for every Jackson Township citizen.

Christopher Goff will fill Mrs. Mann's seat on the board beginning this January. Mr. Goff is Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel of Employers Health Purchasing Corporation of Ohio. He is on the faculty of the College for Advanced Management of Health Benefits, affiliated with Thomas Jefferson Medical College, where he teaches the pharmacy benefits management track. He also serves as a consultant to more than a dozen international pharmaceutical manufacturers. Mr. Goff holds a Bachelor of Science in Business

Administration from Ohio Northern University, a Master of Arts in Political Science from The University of Akron, and a Juris Doctor from The University of Akron School of Law. He and his wife Michele have three children in the Jackson Local Schools.



*"I look forward to represent the Jackson community to build on our academic achievements and work with the board and administration in a transparent and fiscally prudent environment. My top priorities are to ensure that the district is accountable to our taxpayers and that our students are well prepared to become successful and responsible citizens. I thank the voters for their confidence in my abilities to carry out this important work during a time when historic funding mechanisms beg for alternatives."*

– CHRIS GOFF

### School Closing Information

Call 830-8100, ext: 9 or listen to WHBC 1480 a.m.





## Got Spirit!

As Strausser Elementary students arrive at school each day, they are greeted by their new spirit rock. The 10-ton rock, donated by American Sand and Gravel, will become an ever-changing mark of school spirit as it is painted and decorated to cheer the spirit of victory and achievement.

Strausser parent Candy Parsons brought the idea of a spirit rock to Strausser after seeing similar rocks on college campuses. It takes a whole gallon of paint to cover the rock. Mrs. Parsons knows because she gave the rock its first coat, then added some familiar purple bear paws to welcome the students. The rock's next metamorphosis will take place after the school's Feb. 15 art auction where the public can bid on the right to recreate the rock in high spirit. The current plan is to change the rock's message every two months, "like a spirit message board," Mrs. Parsons said.



**Assistant Principal Suzanne Waltman and American Sand and Gravel President Chris Scala watch as workmen loosen the spirit rock from the crane that delivered it. Other community friends helping to deliver the rock were Lindsey Concrete and Selinsky Crane Service.**

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### Crafters apply for JMMS Annual Spring Craft Show

Applications are now being accepted for the March 8, 2008 show sponsored by PATT (Parents and Teachers Together). For an application, go to the Jackson Local Web site (<http://jackson.stark.k12.oh.us>), select the middle school, then select craft show from the menu. Be sure to send both pages of the application, pictures, and a check. Applications will be juried during the first week in February, and acceptance/denial letters will follow. We are interested in a diversity of crafts—traditional, new, and unique. PATT is Jackson Memorial Middle School's parent-teacher group. The craft show is an activity that raises funds which the PATT uses to support students and staff.

### JMMS Spring Craft Show

Saturday, March 8, from 10 – 4 p.m. More than 100 dealers with a variety of arts and crafts. Delicious food. No strollers, please, due to the high attendance.

### School for the Arts All-District Fine Arts Extravaganza

Friday, February 22, 5:30-9:30 p.m. in the high school commons and Center for Performing Arts. The public is invited to experience performances from students districtwide and to participate in a fine arts silent auction to raise funds for the Jackson School for the Arts (JSA).

### Big Night of Fantastic Jazz - Jackson Jazz Festival

Thursday, January 31, 7 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts at JHS. Tickets are \$5 and available at the high school and middle school offices as well as from any member of Jackson High School Jazz Ensembles. Hear Jackson Jazz Ensemble I perform with trombonist Chas Baker (Director of Jazz Studies at Kent State University and soloist with the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra), and trumpet player Dave Banks (director of the Dave Banks Big Band, a former lead trumpet in many Las Vegas shows, and current vocal music/drama instructor at Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls).

### BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE

January 8 ..... Strausser  
February 19 ..... Middle School  
March 18 ..... High School  
April 15 ..... High School  
May 20 ..... High School

Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting dates and times can change.  
Call 330-830-8000 to confirm.

### Bear's Den Restaurant open to the public

The Bear's Den student-run restaurant serves the public delicious lunches from 11:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday at Jackson High School. Expect high quality at a reasonable price.

### Career Day needs professionals from our community

Guiding middle school students to choose appropriate high school courses in preparation for their future careers is essential. Therefore, we are holding the annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Day, Friday, January 25. If you have a career, we need your expertise from 8:00-10:30 a.m. Your informal presentation should outline job expectations, work schedules, salary range, and employment opportunities of your career. Please call Susie Gardner 330-837-3501 for details on how you can help our students get ready for the world of rewarding work. This important step in a student's growth cannot be met without professionals from our community.

### Senior Citizens pay half price for athletic tickets

If you are age 65 or over, you can attend all regular season varsity contests (except football) for half price. Tickets cost \$3 with your photo I.D. Come on out and watch our kids play.



***Fire Safety Training for Kids***

The Jackson Fire Prevention Bureau conducted fire safety classes for kindergarten and 1st grade classes at all Jackson elementary schools, using Stark County's new Family Education Trailer which was purchased with grants from several organizations. In addition to the trailer's kitchen and various rooms where children are taught how to prevent fires, it has a "smoking room." This room fills with a harmless vapor that resembles smoke. Here, children learn how to crawl out along the floor where smoke is thinnest. Pictured from left are Emma Seibert, Isaiah Roberts, Sabrina Maghes, and Jasnoor Goraya.

***Learning about the first Thanksgiving Day Feast***



**Mrs. Nancy Montgomery uses a chi stone to paint Nate Fonner's face. This stone was given to her by a 90-year-old woman who lived on the Navajo-Hopi reservation in Arizona.**



**Corey Hyatt tries pompion and decides against it.**

Second graders participated in a variety of activities to learn about the first Thanksgiving, including a feast of the foods that were most likely eaten. Many, such as pompion (gourds stewed with cider vinegar, ginger, and salt), brought a new and unusual taste to the students' unsophisticated pallets.



**Despite her mother Dorinda's encouragement, Faith Roman agrees with Corey.**



**Noah Olinger said, "It's pretty good!"**

***Feeding the hungry***

Strausser students collect non-perishable pantry items each month for the Salvation Army of Massillon and for needy families in the Strausser area. Loading a recent collection into the Salvation Army van are: John Wolfe, Corey Hyatt, Josh Szink, and Brooke Parsons. Throughout the school year Jackson Local offers students a variety of opportunities to experience being grateful for community support and to give back.





## LAKE CABLE ELEMENTARY

### New meaning for the 3 Rs

Lake Cable 5th grade science students held a clothing drive to put the three Rs (Reducing, Recycling, and Reusing) into action. After learning about the limitations of our planet's resources and the beneficial effects of recycling, students in Mrs. Joan Griest's class decided to **reduce** what was in their closets, bring it to school to be **recycled**, then donate it to Urban Ark to be **reused**. Urban Ark is a Canton inner city group that distributes food and clothing to needy families. Students separated the clothes by size and packed 17 boxes for the Canton organization. Students were surprised to learn that it takes 1,000,000 years for styrofoam to decompose in a landfill, and happy to know that it took so little time to help both the planet and the needy.



Sorting and packing clothing donations are: Brittany Branard, Elise Cornelius, Landrie Grace, Hannah Durr, Haleigh Colucy, Kaitlin Kulich, Hannah Houmard, Katelyn Baker, and Jenna Calderone.



Lake Cable's recycling program accepts only paper, newspapers, and magazines. No cardboard. No phone books.

Pictured with Lake Cable custodian Mr. Mark Gambone are: Sean McCalla, Austin Long, Robby Beaver, Haleigh Colucy, Erin Handwork, Cassie Daut, Olivia Zanolli, Jillian Eckroat, Lauren Vaccaro, Kristin Woodard, Tyler Jacobson, Kaitlin Kulich, and Orin Barat.

### Green Team keeps recycling program going

Every Lake Cable classroom and office has a container for recycling paper. Lake Cable's parking lot has two large dumpsters to hold the paper that is collected twice each week by the school's Student Council members.

The program began last year when parent volunteers Jan Bjornson and Sandy Williams taught students the value of recycling. "Now we took it over," said student Lauren Vaccaro.

"It's fun to help our school," said Kristin Woodard who further explained, "In science, we learned a lot about recycling and we understand."

"Trash dumps are getting so big and taking up so much land, that there is less space to grow food," said Lauren.

"And the more paper we recycle the more trees we save, and trees are what help us breathe," added Kristen.

Mr. Gambone, the school's custodian, noted that many residents in the Lake Cable community also use the dumpsters in the parking lot to recycle their paper. "This community is used to recycling and they appreciate it. Lake Cable school has had a recycling program for at least the last 22 years that I have worked here," he said.



Sauder teacher, Sharon Ritchie, with her 2nd grade students.

## Sauder teacher named to Stark County teaching team

Sauder 2nd grade teacher Sharon Ritchie was among 24 Stark County teachers named to the all-county teaching team at the Mix 94.1 Education Celebration Banquet held in October.

The teaching team is selected annually by superintendents of each school district after a public, online nomination process. Mrs. Ritchie was nominated by the family of former student Colin Williams.

"Mrs. Ritchie is just so wonderful," said Colin's mother, Sara Williams. "She kept the students interested and wanting to learn. She has great creativity, and her communication with the parents was outstanding. It felt like she was a friend as well as a teacher, and it still feels that way today."

"It is a very nice honor that a family thought enough of me to make the nomination," said Mrs. Ritchie.

The Mix 94.1 Education Celebration was presented by the University of Akron and Buehler's Fresh Foods, with support from Carrabba's, ComDoc, Diebold, and the Stark County Educational Service Center.



## Little Pilgrims

Mrs. Conley's first graders presented, *The History of Thanksgiving*, for classmates and parents. The costumes worn by the little pilgrims were hand-sewn by Mrs. Conley. The 26-line play gave every student a speaking part and taught the story of the Mayflower's voyage to America, including little-known facts about early American life and the long evolution of today's Thanksgiving holiday.

## Principal's head disappears to make a point

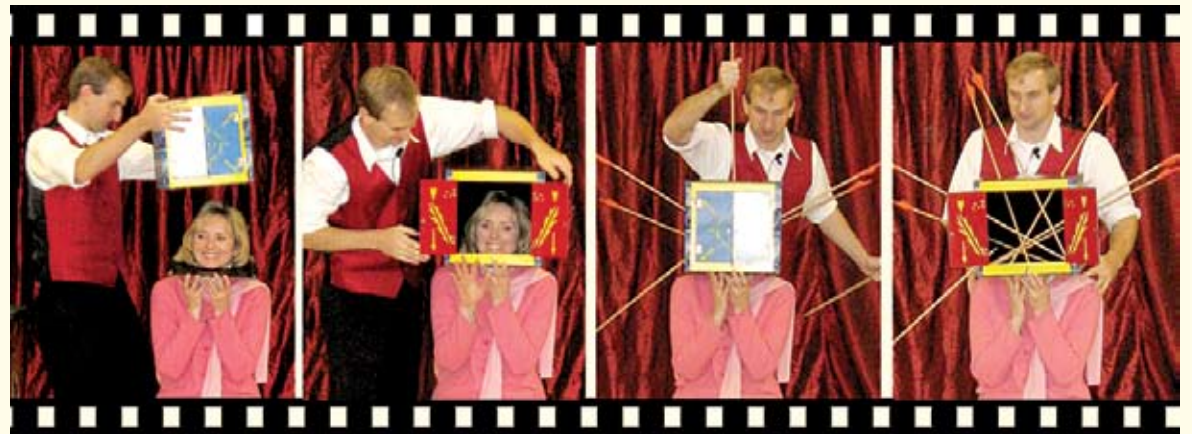
Magician Stephen Knight used illusions to teach Sauder Elementary students about the harmful effects of bullying and the importance of having constant respect for themselves and one another. "Respect," he said, "is a magic word."

Using magic, comedy, and audience participation, Mr. Knight reminded students that when faced with peer violence, they can perform their own vanishing act by "turning your back on bullies."

By far, the highlight of the show was when Mr. Knight made school principal Cindy Brown's head disappear to illustrate the message that bullies are a real "pain in the brain."



First grader Avery Freels helps with a trick.



To audience peals of laughter and screams of excitement, magician Stephen Knight placed a box on principal Cindy Brown's head then filled the box with arrows to make his point that bullies can be a pain in the brain. Then for pure audience pleasure, he made the principal's head disappear.





Third graders aboard the imaginary Polar Express, show their hole-punched train tickets.

## All Aboard the Polar Express

Chris Van Allsburg's, *The Polar Express*, beloved children's book, was brought to life for Amherst third graders by their teachers Kerri Benson, Jennifer Gooding, Jenna Mysza, and Megan Taylor.

The teachers treat the children to a day of learning everything through connections to *The Polar Express*. "This is the age that some kids stop believing in Santa," said Mrs. Benson, "and these kids deserve a little reward. I have never seen kids work as hard as this group of students and they are always so appreciative."

Students and teachers wore their pajamas to school because the child in the story journeyed to the North Pole in his. When he arrived, Santa gave him a sleigh bell that only those who believe in Santa could hear.

"We're doing what the children in the book

did – eating cookies, drinking hot chocolate, having fun, and wearing pajamas," said 3rd grader Libby Graf.

"Only kids could hear the bell," said Lauren Peele.

"Because they believed in Santa," added Victoria Smith.

"Santa stands for giving," announced Brianna Hartong,

"The book is about believing," said Sam Wykoff.

"Believing in magic," added Ben Preis.

"The magic of Christmas makes me feel joy in my heart," concluded Jake Robinson.

The teachers gave each child a bell as a reminder of Christmas magic and joy.



Amherst principal Elaine Ferguson reads *The Polar Express* to third graders.

## On The Banner

**P** Geoff Groenkee  
**O** Louis Fries  
**L** Ellen Raies  
**A** Carlin Isles  
**R** Liz Carr

**B** Kendall Schneider  
**E** Luke Burdeshaw  
**A** Jiayre Moody  
**R** Isabella Billingsley

**P** Venkatesh Saminathan  
**R** Mikenna Costin  
**I** Kayla Ashbrook  
**D** Kaitlynn Simmons  
**E** Stephen Short

## Amherst students are generous givers

Amherst students collected gifts and personal supplies for patients at Heartland Behavioral Healthcare Center, a psychiatric hospital in Massillon. The items donated by our students will help brighten the holidays for some of the severely mentally disabled adults now living on the Heartland campus.

Pictured in no particular order are: Kerissa Vernon, Logan Blaylock, Alex Anderson, Jonathan Titko, Nathan McGlaughlin, Alexis Spuhler, Allan Feldpusch, Matthew Gerold, Madison English, Bailey Williams, Max Kerr, Colin Johnson, Matt Uhl, Branden Hastier, R.J. Beaucock, and Saive Isles.



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## 4 Federal League Championships

- Volleyball
- Girls' Tennis (16 consecutive)
- Boys' Soccer
- Girls' Soccer (15 consecutive)

## 3 Second Place Federal League Finishes

- Girls' Golf
- Girls' Cross Country
- Boys' Golf

## 50-6 head-to-head record against Federal League competition

## 2 Regional Runners-Up

- Girls' Soccer
- Girls' Tennis

## 1 Regional Qualifier

- Boys' Cross Country

## 1 Third Place State Finish

- Girls' Cross Country

## 1 Ninth Place State Finish

- Boys' Golf

## 4 Federal League Coaches of the Year

- Julie Kovick (Volleyball)
- Frank Gagliardi (Girls' Soccer)
- Michael Biros (Boys' Soccer)
- Jeanne Young (Tennis)

## 3 Federal League Players of the Year

- Emily Kenyon (Girls' Soccer)
- Emily Pritt (Girls' Cross Country)
- David Rafealedes (Boys' Cross Country)



**Emily Pritt receives a medal at the girls' cross country state tournament (left).**



**Shelbi Howington**

## Federal League history in review

The Federal League was created in 1966 as an outgrowth of the Stark County AA League. Member schools compete for conference titles in 19 sports, including nine fall sports (football, boys/girls cross country, boys/girls golf, boys/girls soccer, girls volleyball, girls tennis), five winter sports (boys/girls basketball, boys/girls swimming/diving, wrestling), and five spring sports (boys/girls track, baseball, softball, boys tennis). Boys/girls bowling became a league sport this school year. Ice hockey, gymnastics, field hockey, lacrosse, and boys volleyball are among other sports in which various schools participate, but not at the conference level.

Current Federal League members are the Jackson Polar Bears (charter member), Perry Panthers (charter member), Austintown Fitch Falcons (member since 2004), Boardman Spartans (since 2004), GlenOak Golden Eagles (since 1975), Hoover Vikings (since 1968), Lake Blue Streaks (since 1987), and McKinley Bulldogs (since 2004).

Past members included Navarre Fairless (1964-1974), Canton Glenwood (1964-1974), Alliance Marlinton (1964-1984), Magnolia Sandy Valley (1964-1967), Canton South (1964-1986, 1988-1989), Louisville (1968-1989), Canton Oakwood (1968-1974), Alliance (1983-2002), New Philadelphia (1988-1996), Canton Timken (1988-1994) and Wooster (1988-2002).



**Jordan Kaufman**



**Allison Kracker**

## Jackson in the lead for All-Sports Trophy

After the fall sports season, Jackson is in the lead for the Federal League All-Sports Trophy with 65 points, followed by Hoover with 59.5 points, Lake (48 points), Perry (45), Boardman (40.5), GlenOak (40.5), Fitch (17.5), and McKinley (17). At the end of each season, the league awards 9 points to the 1st place team of each sport. The 2nd place teams receive 7 points, 3rd place (6 pts.), and so on down the line. The All-Sports Trophy is a tall golden cup that has rotated to the member school with the best cumulative athletics wins each year since the 1987-88 school year. The initial winner of the trophy in 1987-88 was Perry. GlenOak won it the two following years. Since then, the only two schools to have won the trophy are Jackson and Hoover. Jackson won it in '91, '92, '93, '94, '96, '97, '99, '00, and '01.



**Angelo Palmer**



**Nick Kennen & Derek Zuniga**



**Emily Kenyon**



**Anne Beauch & Stephanie Conlan**



**John Swansiger**



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Equestrian to compete in finals

JMMS student Jaclyn Knoble rides with the Stony Ridge Equestrian Team in Wadsworth. Recently she qualified for the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) zone finals to be held in March 2008. From Zone Finals, the top five riders from each division will compete at the National IEA Finals.

Jaclyn, an 8-year-rider, competes in the flat and over fences categories. For the past three years, Jaclyn has trained with Carolynn Jackson, a former rider with the University of Akron's IHSA (Inter-Collegiate Horse Show Association).

The IEA promotes equestrian competition and instruction for middle and high school students. The IEA is the precursor to the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association.



Jaclyn Knoble and Quinn

### Singing her way through Europe

Elizabeth Rutledge, a JHS senior, traveled to Europe last summer as a vocalist in the United States Youth Ensemble. She is one of only four Ohio youths chosen. The 20-day tour took her to six countries, her favorite stop being Paris, France where the choir brought the audience to tears while performing a medley of American patriotic songs, including our national anthem. "French children waved American flags, and old men took out their handkerchiefs and cried," Elizabeth said. "It was so nice to see people put their differences behind them." Elizabeth plans to study music education in college.



Elizabeth Rutledge

### Public thank you from a JHS student

As president of the JHS Interact Club, Mike Lapadot thanks the community for donating 7,500 books for needy schools across the nation. Mr. Lapadot said, "We thank Sam's Club, the Paul and Carol YMCA, the Green YMCA, and Buehler's Food Market for setting up collection boxes in their stores. We also thank Mr. Ted Swaldo and Mr. Mike Seasor of ASC Industries for shipping the collected books to the Reader to Reader and Hands Across the Waters organizations. Without the help, efficiency, and compassion of these companies and their employees, none of this would have been possible. Most of all, the Jackson Interact Club would like to thank all those individuals who donated books to our effort. The the community's dedication and help will be reflected in the gratitude of the many students across the nation who now have the chance to read a new book and learn."



Mike Lapadot

### JMMS student donates hair to Locks of Love

Kareesma Parbhoo, daughter of Presina and Doogs Parbhoo, and sixth grader at Jackson Middle School, has been growing her hair for four years to donate it to Locks of Love. Recently at Mercy Boutique, hair stylist Angie Neff from Salon Mystique cut two ponytails, each 17- inches-long, off Kareesma's hair.

Kareesma is no stranger to Locks of Love. This is the second time she's made a donation to the organization. At age five and a half, Kareesma was watching TV when she noticed kids without hair and was intrigued. That ultimately led to her first donation to Locks of Love. Younger sister Kajal, also donated her hair to the organization two years ago.

Now sporting an angled bob, Kareesma is happy with her new haircut.

Locks of Love provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children. Visit [www.locksoflove.org](http://www.locksoflove.org).

Mercy Boutique was created as a sanctuary of hope and healing for cancer survivors and individuals with other medical conditions. 330-456-9960.



Kareesma Parbhoo holds the two 17-inch ponytails that hair stylist Angie Neff from Salon Mystique cut from Kareesma's head.

**See your student in Polar Bear Pride.** Send achievements to Paula Blangger, Jackson Memorial Middle School, 7355 Mudbrook Rd Nw Massillon, OH 44646.

## SCHOOLS ARE MADE OF PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR KIDS

When we think of schools and what makes them work, we first think of teachers. Of course. What would schools be without teachers? Teachers care for kids daily with an intensity that rivals home and family. But where would our children be without many of the other school employees who rarely enter a classroom? These people keep buildings clean and safe, carry the mail, answer the phones, cook the food, nurse the wounds, manicure the grounds, purchase the supplies, pay the bills, and more.

Here, you will meet Patty Reeve who couriers the district's mail, Scott Studer who monitors every visitor to Jackson High School, and Jim Dray who patrols the high school parking lots.

### Patty Reeve

delivers mail to each of our school buildings, rain or snow or sleet or shine. Her day begins at the Massillon Post Office where she picks up 2-12 large postal boxes of mail that she carts to her



**Patty Reeve, Courier**

work space in the barn behind the administration office. There she sorts the pieces into piles for each school. As she delivers to each school, she accumulates 2-6 more boxes of outgoing mail daily in addition to bundles of inter-office mail. Mrs. Reeve saves the district about 3 cents on every business-size envelope mailed. She is working on a plan to save the district 3-8

cents on every manila envelope mailed. Her van travels approximately 35-50 miles each day and her feet walk every bit of four miles a day. When students and teachers get a holiday break, Mrs. Reeve does not because she can't afford to let the mail pile up at the post office. "I love my job and work with a lot of great people," said the always smiling Mrs. Reeve.

**Scott Studer** is located at the JHS front entrance to monitor visitors as well as 40 cameras



**Scott Studer, JHS Building Security**

placed in various locations inside and outside the building. The cameras, equipped with motion sensors and night vision, videotape activity round the clock. Mr. Studer monitors all entrances and can buzz people in through back doors when they meet his security guidelines. Not only does Mr. Studer keep the high school entrances secure. He also serves as head basketball coach of the Freshmen Boys' Basketball Team.

The 2007-08 school year marks his 24th year as basketball coach.

**Jim Dray** served 20 years on the police force in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he worked traffic enforcement and narcotics before coming to work as a security guard at JHS. His day begins with the flow of 63 buses through the parking lots. "We get them in and out of here in 20 minutes," he said. Then he moves indoors to check the security of the school's 63 doors. Much of that can now be done by computer, but part must still



**Jim Dray, Grounds Security**

be physically patrolled, and frankly, Mr. Dray is more comfortable after he has physically checked that the computer has locked each door. Mr. Dray travels approximately 15 miles per day in his truck, patrolling the high school's seven parking lots, making sure students are safe and monitored as they arrive and leave at various points throughout the day. He checks for permit tags that tell him a car is allowed to be in our parking lots and investigates cars without tags. He is equipped with a radar gun to monitor motorist's speed, and is known to pass out warnings to students in violation. Warning become detention. Further offenses, and finally loss of driving privileges.

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Join the growing number of Jackson residents who access our wide range of highly interactive courses that are completed entirely over the Internet. All courses take approximately six weeks to complete. They include expert instructors, many of whom are nationally known authors. Our courses are affordable, fun, and conveniently completed from the comfort of your home. Some courses even offer graduate credit. Start by visiting the Web site below to choose from 222 course offerings in the following subject areas:

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