

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE



FEB. 2010 Vol. 16, Issue 3

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Captured on the scoreboard, Tony Forchione sounds his tuba under the dome during the 76th Annual Sugar Bowl halftime show.

Marching Band takes the field at the 2009 Sugar Bowl

The Purple Army was part of one of this country's oldest New Year's Day traditions. They accepted the invitation to perform in the pre-game and halftime Sugar Bowl shows as the Florida Gators and Cincinnati Bearcats battled it out in the 76th annual Sugar Bowl. All our students' cheering and playing

could not prevent the Bearcats from being devoured by the Gators, 51-24.

To make such a trip with 165 of the band's 205 members takes a tremendous amount of teacher direction and student practice, 16 parent chaperones, 5 staff chaperones, 3

airplanes, a lot of pre-planning, and a whole lot of fundraising with the help of a dedicated group of parents called the Band Boosters. The trip cost each person \$1,317 of their own money, as no school funds are used to pay for such off-campus activities.

See SUGAR BOWL, page 3

AlertNow keeps parents informed

Ever look out your windows at the mounting snow and wonder if school will be cancelled? If so, will after-school activities be cancelled too? What if there is an emergency at school that would necessitate early dismissal? Is there a way that Jackson parents can receive up-to-the-minute information? Yes. It's the district's low-cost, high-benefit, parent-peace-of-mind, AlertNow system.

When parents register their email addresses and up to five of their phone numbers with the system, the school can deliver voice, e-mail or text messages instantly to telephones, mobile phones, PDAs or any Internet-enabled device. So, whether parents are at home, at work, or out running errands, they now have the most current and accurate information available from school.

The service, launched in 2008, now offers parents AlertAccess, the ability for parents to access the system to update their contact information and to select the kinds of messages they want to receive, such as emergency information, event reminders, cancellations, and general information. Parents can even visit the Jackson Local Web site to retrieve the last 15 days of messages sent to their phones or computers.

See AlertNow, page 2

Heard a Rumor? Want the Facts?

If you hear an unlikely story about your top-rated school district, or find something confusing, just ask Paula at:

pmb1jc@jackson.sparcc.org



Warming the homeless

WKYC Channel 3 reporter Susan Moses interviews JMMS 8th grader Karley Mullins about the 80 blankets she and her classmates made for our community's homeless.

See Story, page 7

Strategic Planning Committee seeks continuous improvement

A team of 35 community members, administrators and students are meeting together regularly to develop goals, strategies, and an action plan to meet the district's current and anticipated challenges as they pertain to emerging educational, economic, social, demographic, and technological trends.

"While I am very proud of our school system, I know that with your assistance we can serve our students, parents, and community even more effectively," superintendent Cheryl Haschak told the group.

The team will work together through June with strategic planning facilitator Charles Parsons of the Parsons group to examine the district's strengths and possibilities for long-term improvement. They will create a 5-8 year plan for the district and construct a cost/benefits analysis of the plan before presenting to the Board of Education in June.

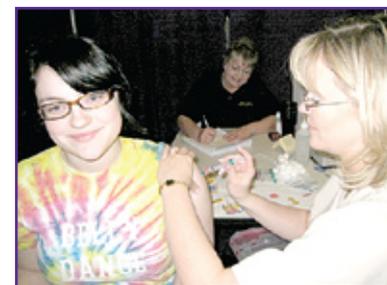
Spelling Bee Champ

After six rounds of spelling, JMMS 8th grader Brenda Euro emerged as the winner of the Jackson District Spelling Bee that took place at the high school on January 15. Brenda won by correctly spelling the word ineffable. Vying for the alternate position were Simran Vaidya, Kareesma Parbhoo, and Dana Sutton. After a few more tense rounds, Dana won the position by spelling the word officiant. Brenda will continue on to the 64th Annual Repository Regional Grand Final Spelling Bee on March 6 at the GlenOak High School theater.



H1N1 shots made available to students

Jackson Local partnered with the Stark County Health Department to administer 2342 H1N1 vaccinations to our students this flu season. At right, nurse Christina Gruber inoculates Anna Pickard while Cheryl Dietrich completes paperwork.



Did You Know?

Every evening since October, Jackson custodians have wiped down every desk and chair in our buildings in an effort to protect our community's children from the spread of H1N1.

AlertNow

Continued from page 1

“We take student safety seriously and encourage all parents to participate in this program,” said assistant superintendent Chris DiLoreto.

When school was recently cancelled because of inclement weather, Mr. DiLoreto made one call into the AlertNow system, and immediately the system sent out over 20,000 calls to cell and home phones, alerting parents that school was cancelled for the day. The calls went out when most students were still in bed, so there was no need to get up early to try

and figure it out. One slight impediment to the system is illustrated by what happened to School Board member Ken Douglas. He was in a different time zone when his cell phone alert came through, waking him up two hours earlier than necessary. Mr. Douglas laughed and admitted that he would still rather have the information concerning his children, no matter where he was on the planet.

It is important to note that the system works, even during a power outage at school because Jackson houses none of the equipment. AlertNow requires no hardware, software or additional phone lines. As an application service provider, AlertNow manages and hosts the system.



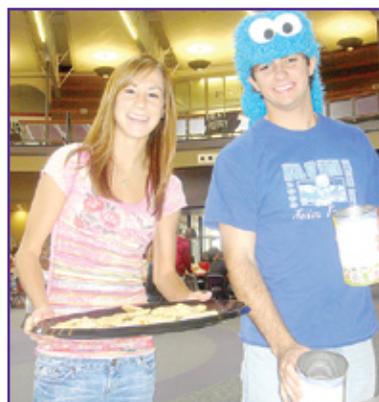
Using his cell phone, Mr. DiLoreto records the school cancellation message on the AlertNow system to instantly inform all participants.

On The Banner

P Brett Pinson
O Ian Getz
L Maria Bennett
A Chase Isles
R Brad Dupont

B Chase Coleman
E David Poyser
A Paige Hill
R Kristin Cardwell

P Elizabeth Roush
R Ashley Mounts
I Libby Shaffner
D Rebecca Plute
E Stevie Arnold



Maggie Rusnack and Louie Thomas sell cookies during lunch period.

Cookies for kids with cancer

Mrs. Stephanie Anderson's JHS Creative Living classes held a bake sale to raise funds for cancer. They baked the cookies and sold them to classmates during lunch periods. With a goal to raise \$1000, they fell just a bit short, raising \$884. So, fellow students in Mrs. Karen French's Entrepreneurship class helped them out by raising an additional \$220 selling Halloween treat bags.

How a snow day is called

Ever wonder how a snow day is called, who calls it, and what criteria are used to determine the call? At Jackson, superintendent Cheryl Haschak and assistant superintendent Chris DiLoreto make the decision. The two get into their cars between 3:30 and 4:00 a.m. to drive the township's main roads and allotments so they can make the determination before the first school bus leaves the garage at 6:00 a.m. to begin collecting students. They stay in cell phone contact with each other and with the township Highway Department to determine the viability of the roadways. But that's not all that has to be considered. All school parking lots must be plowed and sidewalks salted. With six school buildings and the bus garage, that takes time. Next, they must visit every school building to be sure there is heat, electricity, and water. Then they check with other area superintendents to compare notes, considering wind chill and the weather forecast for the coming hours. “We not only have to get students safely to school, we also have to get them home safely,” Mr. DiLoreto said. If they determine that conditions warrant cancelling school and or evening activities, the next action is to call the AlertNow system to notify families. The cancellation is also registered on the school Web site, with radio station 1480 WHBC, and with TV channels 3, 5 and 8.



Singing the Season

JHS teachers
 Fred Locker,
 Scott Eversdyke,
 Bruce
 Lautzenheiser,

and Steve Dye entertained the entire staff and student body with their barbershop rendition of Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree as part of a school-wide assembly of good cheer and holiday wishes. The annual event also brings the Symphony Band (directed by Thomas Holliday), the Jazz Band (directed by Don Turoso), Chorale, and Jacks-n-Jills (directed by Frederick Locker and Scott Eversdyke), and willing members of the staff to the stage for the holiday sing.

Sugar Bowl

Continued from page 1

Mr. Holliday was extremely proud of his band as they not only performed flawlessly, but also represented their school and community in a way that had people commenting. Upon return, Mr. Holliday received numerous notes and emails letting him know how well behaved, courteous and talented our students were. A flight attendant even wrote to say that she had never found her plane so clean after transporting students until she met the Polar Bears.

While in New Orleans, students had the opportunity to reflect on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In the 9th Ward they saw the beginnings of restoration, while elsewhere, they saw continuing devastation – driveways and stairways leading to nowhere, doorways of destroyed homes still bearing the coded markings from the search for bodies. There was naught but a ghostly emptiness in a place where high school students once lived.

On a lighter note, the band also took time to enjoy the culture of the birthplace of



The Polar Bear Purple Army fills the end zone of the Louisiana Superdome.

jazz, taking a walking tour of the French Quarter with its talented street musicians, enjoying a riverboat ride on the Mississippi, going into the Bayou and visiting with the locals, taking Creole/Cajun dance lessons, and experiencing the button box, washboard Zydeco music of the Louisiana Creole.

“We don’t have these things in Jackson Township,” Mr. Holliday said, “If we are preparing students to work in the world’s marketplace, it is valuable for them to have some experience outside their hometown.”



Sarah Schiller (left) and Chelsea Cochrane pose with Cincinnati's Bearcat.

Because of a technical glitch, this online edition does not contain the ads.

The paper edition contains all ads.

Jackson Local thanks its advertisers for making it possible to communicate with residents about life and learning in the Jackson Local Schools.



JSA explores art therapy

Students in the Jackson School for the Arts invited Art Therapist Gail Wetherell Sack to their classroom for an exploration of the field of Art Therapy. Mrs. Wetherell Sack led students in a short relaxation meditation then asked them to express their feelings in a piece of art created with glue and torn construction paper. Students were to keep the art and view it occasionally to see what thoughts, inspiration, or insights emerged over time.

At right, Mrs. Wetherell Sack (center) oversees the inspired artwork of Sarah Hake, Lauren Miller, Rachel Coleman, and Aaron Darr.

African dance leaps to life in JSA classrooms

Professional dancer, educator and choreographer A'Keitha Carey spent two days at JHS teaching a Caribbean/African dance class to students in the Jackson School for the Arts. The Bahama-born instructor had students stooping low and leaping high to the beat of native African drums. They flowed like ribbon in the wind to Ms. Carey's CaribFunk, a style which she developed. It fuses contemporary ballet and modern dance with the traditional dance forms (West African, Haitian, Afro-Cuban, and Caribbean) and layers them with her unique dynamic rhythm.



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.

JHS Habitat Club surpasses its goal to raise \$10,000

The JHS Habitat Club raised its target this year, aiming to raise \$10,000 for Habitat for Humanity instead of the \$1,000 raised by last year's club members. Club advisors Roy Dria and Brian Clevenger warned that it was an awfully high goal, but joined the students in their enthusiasm.

Beginning in November, teams of students, with their advisors, collected used household items donated by Jackson community members and stored



them at Jackson High School. A Habitat for Humanity ReStore appraiser then visited the school and assigned a value to the items, crediting the Jackson Habitat Club with the in-kind donation. The ReStore will sell the donated materials to the public at a fraction of their retail cost

and give the proceeds to Habitat for Humanity. Combined with another fundraiser through Cici's Pizza, the club surpassed its goal, raising \$14,400.

"This a great example of the unity we have in our Jackson community," Mr. Dria said.

The JHS Habitat Club includes more than 100 students who swing hammers for Habitat on most Saturdays and raise awareness about the need for decent housing. The club plans two more fundraisers in the spring.

Chanel 3s Kim Wheeler visits JHS Broadcast Media students

Broadcast Media students were thrilled Kim Wheeler, the weekend morning anchor and education reporter for Channel 3 News, WKYC, Cleveland visited their classroom. The group learned about the education needed for a career as a videographer or news anchor/reporter. They learned what a typical day is like for Ms. Wheeler and her videographer. Students were interested in who writes the scripts for the news anchors, what type of camera the videographer used. They were surprised to learn that the videographer's camera cost over \$5000 and the battery costs \$2000 yet his recording medium was a \$2.00 mini digital tapes just like our students use for their school assignments because it still offers the higher quality than hard drive or flash memory. The videographer also allowed students to use the camera and feel its weight.



JHS Broadcast Media students pose with TV journalist Kim Wheeler of WKYC Cleveland and their teacher Linda Sutherland. Students are (from left): Mike Donelan, Brittany Zagray, Rachael Porter, Cruz Reigler, Vance Nonno, Nick Mauser, and Mike McDonald.

Student Spotlight

Andi Adams, JHS senior, was chosen to attend the Ohio Board of Regents Foreign Language Academy to study Chinese at Kent State University, main campus this past summer and continues her studies through this academic year with nine Saturday sessions on campus and via Skype. Andi will receive eight tuition-free credit hours that satisfy her high school language requirements and count toward college language requirements at Ohio institutions of higher education. The program is funded by the Ohio Board of Regents to encourage the study of languages critical for US national security (Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, and Russian).



Andi Adams



Rohan Bhargava



Amber Franklin



Ethan Ash

Rohan Bhargava, JHS senior and speech and debate student, was invited to the Montgomery Bell Academy Southern Bell Forum XXVII, an Extemporaneous Speaking Round Robin Tournament Nashville, Tennessee. Only 16 students across the nation are invited to compete in this tournament. Rohan placed 10th out of 16.

Amber Franklin was chosen as a German language camp counselor for Camp OFLA this past summer. She spent a week helping elementary students with German culture and language.

Ethan Ash, JHS senior, was published in ¡Albricias! (the student scholarly magazine published by the National Office of the Sociedad). He wrote an essay, in Spanish, on Gary Soto, an Hispanic poet, essayist, and author.

Dancing With the Teachers aids Student Assistance Fund

This school year, JHS teachers have personally contributed over \$1,600 to develop an in-house fund designed to aid students with academic expenses that they cannot afford, such as calculators and consumables. "Almost daily, I hear of a student who struggles to pay for essential supplies," said Jackson School for the Arts (JSA) director Susan Gardner. To enrich the fund, JSA and the Family and Consumer Science Club invited teacher/student teams to perform in a *Dancing With the Teachers* contest, raising an additional \$1,120. The contest brought, sometimes hilarious and often amazing, hidden talents to the stage.



Teacher Stefanie Fatzinger with Matt Turner.

Teacher Stephanie Anderson with Luther Anderson.

Above, teacher Mara Schwendiman with Cassidy Lasick.

PHOTOS BY ANDIE KINSLEY



Student Devon Carroll with teacher Julie Kovick.



Teacher Angela Manes.



Teachers Scott Akers (left) and Larry Taylor with student Chene Beringer.



Guidance counselor Marian Beresh with Kara Krosnick.



Teacher Fred Locker with Lauren Klein.

Jackson delivers Christmas to 67 families in need

Each year, Jackson administrators, staff and students districtwide, adopt area families in need. This year, the number reached an all-time high of 67 families. Undaunted, teachers Rebecca Arter and Angela Manes led the charge, rallying the district's various clubs, and individuals to open their hearts. As usual, the district rose to meet the need. Each child received a pair of shoes, a shirt, pants, a book and a toy. In addition, the family received a ham, canned goods, household cleaning products, toiletries, and a large box of baked goods from Nickles Bakery.

The JHS Outdoors Club cut down and delivered eight Christmas trees to families in need. With each tree, they also delivered a stand, ornaments, lights, ribbon, tinsel, candy canes, hot chocolate, and Christmas cards. Some of the recipients allowed our students to decorate the trees with them. Others preferred to decorate them with their own families. One family said the tree looked like it was professionally decorated, and another said, "It makes the season brighter."



Wrapping the gifts: Ty Schwert, Katie Peters, Tom Herold, Jordan Pitzer, Alexa Welch, Amber Dennis, and Brandon Hula.



JHS Outdoors Club prepares to chop down trees. Rachel James, Ally Oliver, Audrey Wahl, Trent Kershey, Nick Jackson, Henry Lieberman, Mike Duff, Logan Paone, Elle Grubb, Reed Parker, Emery Hidas, Hannah Goodrick, Hillary Butler, Paula Chen, Nate Piatt, Lauren Byrd, Erin Fitch, Katie Williamson, (not pictured) Kayla Piatt.

Teachers and Troupers net a win for students

Jackson teachers beat the Ohio State Troopers 45-41 in a charity basketball game that netted \$4,000 for the middle school parent support group, PATT. With about 600 people in attendance, both teams wanted the win, but the teachers pulled it out and, to the cheers of the crowd, received handshakes from the troupers and a trophy from the principal, Monica Myers. The Jackson Polar Bear and Teddy Trouper mascots added to the excitement.

Already, the troupers are looking for a re-match. PATT parents Sunita Paul, Sherry Martell, and Sarah Butler said they can make that happen. Mrs. Paul said she will work to make it an annual event, and even though Mrs. Martell and Mrs. Butler's children will move on to the high school next year, the two agreed to lend a hand to the worthy event. What made it worthy for the women was, not only the funds that will be funneled back into the classrooms, but also seeing the student reaction. "It was great for our children to see their teachers and state troupers in another light,"

Mrs. Paul said. "Away from their authoritarian positions, it makes them easier for kids to relate to."

At half time, State Trooper Dan Laubacher spoke to students and parents about the importance of wearing seat belts and never texting while driving. The troupers also brought a go cart that simulated drunk driving for students. Mr. Laubacher agreed with Mrs. Paul, saying, "Events like this show that we are people too. We have a family. We live in your neighborhoods." He said that it's important to be seen in a human light without diminishing the fact that teachers and troupers have jobs to do and will do them with passion.



PATT thanks the state troupers and teachers: Larry Taylor, John Telloni, Kiel Gallina, Tim Hulse, Anthony Butch, Matt Ziders, Matt Sands, Mike Morningstar, Gary Jones, Jim Kish, Jim Wertz, Mike Heidi, and Josh Yanke.

JMMS students create pen pal relationship with Iraq soldier

Students in Sarah Michel's 6th grade World History class created a video for Veteran's Day to send to SPC Laura Kline, Mrs. Michel's sister, who is an Army soldier serving as a military police officer in Iraq. The students regularly email Ms. Kline who hopes to visit the students when she is home in May. The students are excited to meet her and challenge her to a push up contest. The video included students reading special poems into the camera and then posing for a silly photo to make her laugh. The students also sent a box of goodies and essentials to SPC Kline and her unit for the holidays.



SPC Laura Kline.



JMMS 6th graders being silly to bring cheer to Army soldier SPC Laura Kline.



JMMS 8th graders make 80 blankets for the homeless

Students in Holly Bantum's 8th grade language arts classes made 80 blankets for the homeless shelter in Massillon. The students were inspired to do so after reading *No Promises in the Wind* by Irene Hunt, a novel about a boy growing up homeless during the depression. Students commented that they were glad the depression was over and that no other children had to live that way. Mrs. Bantum felt it was important to teach her students that many local children are currently having an experience similar to that of depression-era children. After an economic discussion, she and her students made a conference call to the Massillon shelter to find out if there was a need that students might fill, and it became clear that blankets were sorely needed.

The Family Living Center is one of the few shelters that allow families to stay together as they try to re-group, so there are many children housed there.

The students began the blanket project by collecting \$800 from family, friends, and staff to be used for supplies. Mrs. Bantum and student Karley Mullins spent five hours at Walmart selecting and cutting fleece fabric that could be used to make no-sew blankets. Students worked in groups to cut and tie the blankets. One group became so proficient that they could turn out a blanket in 13 minutes.

The project caught the eye of Ramona Robinson of WKYC Channel 3 News in Cleveland, and the students were featured on her news program, *Ramona's Kids*. "We make it a priority to share the good news of the community," said WKYC reporter Susan Moses.

Keep learning at Jackson's Online Instruction Center

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:

Basic Computer Literacy
 Computer Applications
 Graphic Design
 The Internet
 Web Page Design
 Web Graphics & Multimedia
 Web & Computer Programming
 Database Management & Programming
 PC Troubleshooting, Networking, & Security

Grant Writing & Nonprofit Management
 Start Your Own Business
 Personal Development
 Sales & Marketing
 Law & Legal Careers
 Health Care Continuing Education
 Courses for Teaching Professionals
 Writing & Publishing
 Entertainment Industry

Digital Photography & Digital Video
 Languages
 Personal Finance & Wealth Building
 Health Care, Nutrition, & Fitness
 Personal Enrichment
 Child Care & Parenting
 Art, History, Psychology, & Literature
 Math, Philosophy, & Science
 Accounting

www.ed2go.com/jtce

Open letter from the Jackson Alumni Association President

By Tom Lockard, Class of 1959, Alumni Assoc. President

In 2009, your Jackson Alumni Association awarded \$5000 in scholarships, reinstated the "Wall of Fame" program that was suspended for two years due to the high school construction, contributed to the new JHS gymnasium scoreboard, created a brochure that describes the Association, and held its annual alumni dinner in April with 45 in attendance. Are you impressed? I'm not. There is so much more that could be accomplished.

We want to create a first-class Web site and need more help in the concession stand. We want people with ideas for fund raising and social events. So, if school pride and being with great Jackson grads interests you, please join us at a meeting. **We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., in the athletic director's office at the middle school.**

Jackson has about 16,000 graduates eligible to become Association members, yet the association has less than 300 members, many of them who graduated before or with my class, which just celebrated its 50th reunion. Members

of my class recently toured the middle school, which was our old high school. Impressive was the condition of the building and the care that the staff and students take in keeping it attractive. I call it pride.

We have a high school that is state of the art and consistently ranks as one of the best in the state. Alumni, we have every reason to be proud of our Alma mater.

Now, all we need to do is bring our Alumni Association up to a standard that matches the school system. To do that, we need more members and more involvement. **You do not have to be a JHS grad to join the Association. We welcome all who are proud of our schools.**

Any questions, call Tom Lockard at 330-725-1288

Join Your JHS Alumni Association jacksonpolarbearsalumni.org

First Name _____ Last _____ Maiden _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Grad Year _____ Email _____

I am interested in helping with:

- Special Events Web site
 Membership Publicity & Public Relations
 Memorabilia Class Liaison

Mail to:

Jackson High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 35323, Canton, OH 44735-5323

Annual Fee	\$10
Lifetime Member	\$100
Scholarship Contribution	_____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Nominate a grad for the JHS Alumni Wall of Fame

The JHS Alumni Association is asking for nominees who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following areas: athletics, community contributions, professional accomplishments, political leadership, humanitarian contributions, or education. Nominee must be a five-year graduate.

Name of Nominee _____ Graduation year _____

High school achievements: _____

Athletic achievements: _____

Post high school achievements: _____

Nominated by: _____

Mail to: Jackson Memorial Middle School, Alumni Wall of Fame Committee, 7355 Mudbrook Street, Massillon, OH 44646

Look who's up to what

Holly Roby, opened Jackson's first theater company this fall at Foxboro Plaza, offering singing, acting, & make-up classes. **Terry Altlan Pope**, class of 1966, wrote and illustrated a children's book entitled *Look What I Made*.

Rachel Valentino, class of 2000, was named a member of 30 Under 30 Class of 2009 by Realtor Magazine. As a realtor in the Washington, D.C. area she was also named Washington City Paper's 2009 Best Real Estate Agent. **Teal Harvey** coached this year's girl's high school golf team to their first district

title which earned them a place at this year's state tournament which earned them the title of All Federal League Team. Mr. Harvey was also recognized as All Federal League Golf Coach of the Year. **Elmer Schuetz**, former Jackson football coach was named Honorary Coach for the 2009 Repository East-West All-Star Football Game. Mr. Schuetz coached football for 32 years, 13 of those at JHS. **Maureen Arter**, marketing director for the *Repository* and *About* magazine received the 2009 Canton Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award. **John Telloni**, class of 1999, recently joined the JMMS staff as a 7th

grade social studies teacher. **Betty Bush Tschantz** and husband Bill, class of 1948, celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary in December. **Nick Zorko & Ed Briercheck**, class of 2002, both future physicians rode their bikes this past summer from OSU in Columbus to OU in Athens then back to OSU to raise money for cancer research. **Stefanie Belcher Spielman** lost her battle with breast cancer. She and husband, former Massillon and National Football League player Chris Spielman, were advocates and fund-raisers for Breast Cancer Awareness. Stefanie is a past enshrinee of our Alumni Wall of Fame at JHS.

Annual JHS Alumni Dinner

The JHS Annual Alumni dinner will be held Tuesday, April 27, at 6 p.m. in The Bear's Den at Jackson High. Reservations needed by April 15 and can be made by calling Jennifer Jones at 330-499-3543, or emailing partyondude1999@aol.com.

Big Band Dinner Dance

The Jackson Jazz Ensemble will hold its 30th Annual Big Band Dinner Dance, Saturday April 17 with a full course dinner catered by Jackson Culinary Arts. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and dancing from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the middle school and high school, or from any Jazz Ensemble I member beginning March 1. Cost is \$12 per person, reserved seating, advance sale only. No tickets sold at the door.

Old cell phones help parks

Consider donating your old cell phone to the Friends of Jackson Community Parks. The used phones can be dropped at Buehlers or the Jackson Belden Chamber of Commerce. Contact Steve Rohr at 330-

Historical Society announces its public programs

Unless otherwise stated, all events take place at the One Room School, 7756 Fulton.

Soup and Sandwich, February 2, Topic of discussion: Reminiscing about Jackson Township, with audience participation. 12-2 p.m. \$4 members, \$5 non members. Program begins at 12:30.

Lasagna Dinner, March 21, 12 p.m. Reservations required at \$10 per person. Call 330-832-6905. Scuba Diving presentation by Steve Hickman. Program begins at 12:30.

Soup and Sandwich, April 18, 12-2 p.m. \$4 members, \$5 non members. Topic TBA. Program begins at 12:30.

Picnic Style Dinner May 16, 12 p.m. Reservations required at \$10 per person.

Jackson Branch Library programs available now

Adult Book Discussion Group

Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Mar 4, *The Last Child* by John Hart.

The Employment Source

Monday, Mar. 1, 1:30-3 p.m. Adults: Learn how the free services at The Employment Source can benefit you in your job search.

Lunch Bunch Book Club

Saturdays, 12-1 p.m. • Grades 3-5
 Mar. 13, *Dying To Meet You* by Kate Klise
 Apr. 10, Free Choice. Bring your lunch.

Spring Clean @ the Library

Mar 29-Apr 3 • Grades 9-12: Volunteer to help spring clean the library. Great way to get those volunteer hours that you need! Registration packets available Mar 1.

Jackson's 'Close Knit' Group

Mondays • 6:30-8:00 pm
 Feb. 22; Mar 8, 22; Apr. 12, 26; May 3, 17
 Adults: All welcome, beginners- experts.

844-1212 or 330-844-1212 for pick-up. The Friends Of Jackson Community Parks also seeks committee volunteers and board members.

Hall of Fame Senior Olympics return to Stark

If you are age 50 or older, you can compete in the Hall of Fame Regional Senior Olympic Games which are back in Canton and the surrounding area, June 1-23. For details on the 24 events and to register, visit www.hofseniorolympics.org. If you have questions, contact executive director Larry Werstler at 330-492-2642.

Kumon scholarships

Motivated high school students may take advantage of a free Kumon reading ACT/SAT test preparation program valued at \$660. Students will have to sign a contract and pay a small deposit (refunded upon completion) and study for six consecutive months. Offer expires March 31, 2010. Contact Sheila Lahoti at 330-209-2000 for details.

Call 330-832-6905. Topic: Song Hit Magazines presented by Wade Deemer. Program begins at 12:30 p.m.

One-Day Bus Trip to John Glenn's Museum and the Cambridge Glass Museum, with a ride on the Byesville train. June 26, \$80 per person, includes lunch and gratuity. Call 330-832-6905 for more information. Reservations required.

Ice Cream Social and Antique Appraising

Aug. 22, noon-3 p.m. Ice Cream Sundae's \$5 each. Antique appraiser from 1-3 p.m. Have your antiques appraised for \$3 per item with a limit of two items.

Personal Finance Seminars

Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. • Adults. Primerica presents:
 Mar 2.....Four keys to building wealth
 Mar 16.....Establish an emergency fund
 Mar 30.....Buy the right life insurance
 Apr 20.....Invest
 May 4.....Start a family tradition

Teen Writer's Club

Thursdays • 6:30-7:45 p.m. • Mar. 4, 18; Apr. 1, 15; May 6, 20, Grades 6-12.

Memoir Writing

Mondays • 6-8 p.m. • Mar 22, 29. Adults: Two-part class on writing memoirs. An outline will be provided to guide you.

Mother/Daughter Book Discussion

Saturday, May 1, 12:30-2:00 p.m. Grades 6-8: *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi. 3-4:30 p.m. Grades 9-12, *Sold* by Patricia McCormick.

JHS Spanish Honor society installs new members

By student, John Pinson

The JHS Spanish Honor Society inducted 40 new members in October. La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is a national group that formally recognizes the excellence and achievements of students enrolled in Spanish and Portuguese. Originally established in 1953, this national society has grown to over 2000 chapters internationally. Jackson High School's José Luis Girao Chapter, currently the only chapter in Stark County, was founded in 2008 by Mrs. Parthena Draggett, a Spanish and French teacher at Jackson High School. The society's primary goal is to raise awareness of the Spanish culture and language in ways that help the school and community. This



group's accomplishments include teaching Jackson Township firefighters and Lake Cable Elementary students to speak Spanish.

The induction ceremony was conducted completely in Spanish, however, a PowerPoint presentation translated everything to English for the audience. Guest speaker, Mr. Abel Acuña, from the Timken Company spoke about the importance of embracing the

language and not giving up on your dreams. There was also a performance of Selenia's *Como La Flor* by Spanish Honor Society members, and each officer recited a poem of their choice.

2009 Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica Inductees

Alex Anderson, Kristen Anderson, Chené Benger, Jen Bentivegna, Sonia Britton, Alexander Bruch, Matt Campbell, Morgan Capestrain, Clayton Casper, Trisha Conlan, Christopher Corbett, Will Evans, James Feller, Zachary Hathaway, Arielle Haut, Shelbi Howington, Jamie LaMonica, Devin Metzger, Sarah Morrow, Erica Muñoz, Catherine Nycum, Anna Pickard, Maison Priest, Megan Rath, Molly Rothgeb, Emily Sanders, Jasmine Sandhu, Madison Schuler, Haley Scibetta, Hannah Selinsky, Taylor Sherrod, Eric Smith, Hannah Soulier, Jack Sypek, Elena Trampevska, Hannah Weaver, Lauren Wind, Thomas Winkhart, Charlotte Zanlenski, Chase Zonfa.

School Calendar

February	4	Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-12)
	10	Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-12)
	12	Waiver Day - No School (K-12)
	15	Presidents' Day - No School (K-12)
March	19	End 3rd 9 weeks
	29	1st Day Spring Break
April	5	Classes Resume
	14	No School (K-12)
	31	Memorial Day - No School (K-12)
June	4	Last Day of School



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Board Member • 330-833-7284

Board Meeting Schedule

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

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

JHS senior elected to the Board of Education

The admittedly nervous but excited JHS senior, Katherine Knowles, took the oath of office as the newest and youngest-ever member of the Jackson Local Board of Education this January. The 18-year-old ran for office, she said, "Because I think students should have a voice on the decisions made for the school and I can give my perspective on things."

"When she decides to go for something, she sees it through. She's always surprising us," said Miss Knowles' mother, Christiane McCormick.

Two of her best friends, Samantha Herrick and Jonathan Carpathios also attended the meeting and sat in the front row, directly across from Miss Knowles. "She's always striving for things," said Samantha. "She works really hard and is a really good

person," added Jonathan.

Board president Tom Winkhart welcomed Kathryn, saying, "I think she will bring a fresh perspective to the board."

A student in the Jackson schools since sixth grade when she moved from Kansas, Miss Knowles plans to attend Malone College to study psychology next fall.



Friends, Jonathan Carpathios and Samantha Herrick address the newest school board member.



Kathryn Knowles smiles from her seat at the table as a newly sworn-in member of the Jackson Local Board of Education.

Character Counts in the Jackson Local Schools

Last October, family members, friends and colleagues gathered at the R. G. Drage Career Technical Center to honor more than 100 recipients of the People of Character award, sponsored by CHARACTER COUNTS! in Stark County. Each school in the county is asked to identify and submit the name of one person of character and to identify the reasons that qualified the individual. The recipients were selected as People of Character because they live their lives by the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. They also serve as role models for the school community.

This year, Jackson selected the following people of character to receive the honor:

Barbara Haer - Lake Cable Secretary

Karl Tallman - JMMS Head Building Maintenance Custodian

Kim Bryan - Amherst Monitor/Assistant to with children with special needs.

Judi Lyons - Strausser Library Technician

Donna Ruwadi - Jackson High School Secretary

Shari James - Sauder Elementary Intervention Specialist



Barbara Haer



Karl Tallman



Kim Bryan



Judi Lyons



Donna Ruwadi



Shari James

Students present to Board of Education

To learn how a business works, Strausser Elementary 4th graders formed a company that designs, produces, markets and sells campaign button-style badges. The company, called Federal Badge Incorporated, will donate its profits to the Canton Calvary Mission food pantry. A group of the students made a



Presenting to the Board of Education were: **Grace Davies, Kamee Carroll, Zara Siddiquee, Nick Nakoneczny, Hannah Burgess, Keagan Shock, Chloe Longworth, Connor Tilstra, Ethan Burns, and Victoria Ferreira.**

very fine presentation about their project to the Board of Education at a recent meeting. "I was twitchy when it was my turn [to present]" said Grace Davies. Her classmate, Ethan Burns understood exactly what she meant. "Those are very high people—treasurers and big board members," he said. Victoria Ferreira had a loose tooth that she feared would come out during her segment. The board was impressed with our young entrepreneurs, and Scott Gindlesberger bought buttons to prove it.

Remember blackboards and then green boards? Well..... meet the SMART Board

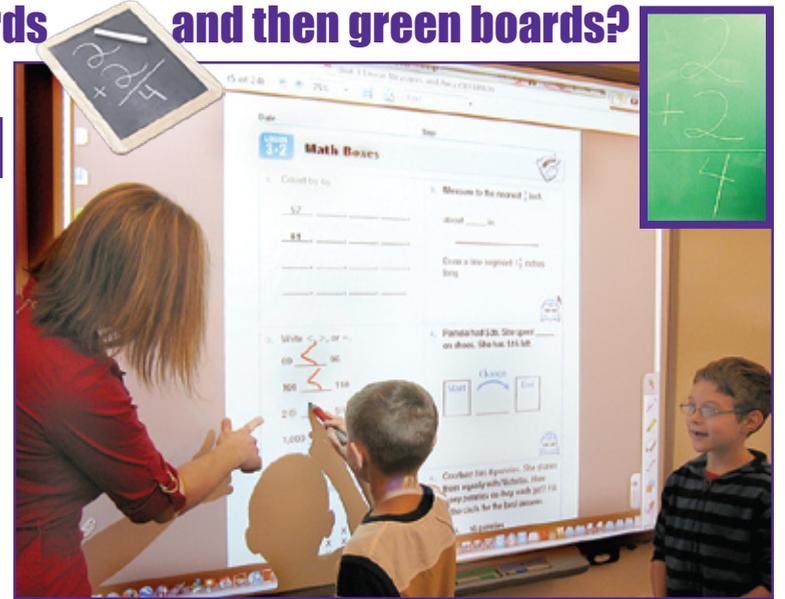
SMART Boards are being installed districtwide because of the interactive learning results and excitement they bring to the classroom. Some of the boards are being purchased with the one-time government stimulus funds our district received, while others are being purchased by hard-working parent groups who understand the value of this teaching tool. It's a computer and dry erase board all in one.

SMART Boards allow teachers to add sound, movement, and video to their presentations, keeping students engaged and eager to be chosen to work at the board. Teachers can write notes directly onto the board during class and then transfer those notes, lessons, and examples directly to their websites, or print them out on a printer. Students can later access the exact lesson that was presented in class, if they were absent or just need to review the concept. Anything that can be done on a computer can be done on a SMART Board. Anything available on the Web can be accessed by a SMART Board.

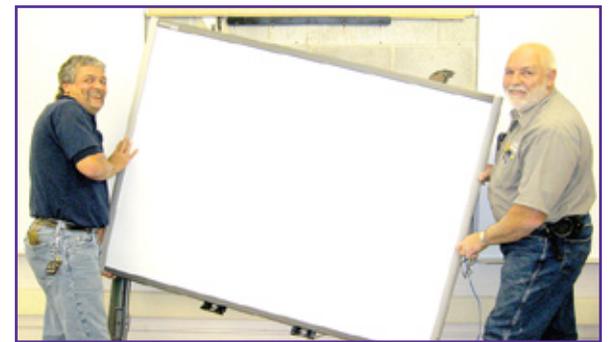
"My SMART Board has completely changed the way I teach," said Amherst 3rd grade teacher Jennifer Gooding. "I try to integrate this technology into every lesson. The students are constantly engaged and excited about learning, and I am eager to learn as much as I can about this new classroom technology,"

"I like math and I learn it faster now," said 3rd grader Hailey Dennis.

"I wish I had one at home to do my homework on because I want to be really smart," added student Brian Hastler.



Bryan Hastler works with his teacher, Jennifer Gooding, at the SMART Board in his classroom while Mitchell Venus eagerly awaits his turn.



Maintenance mechanics Bob Pryor (left) and Bob Kolberg install one of the district's SmartBoards after removing one of the green chalk board that was installed in 1963.

Older students at the middle school are learning to make class presentations with the tool.

"It's the best teaching tool I've seen to date," said teacher Kerri Benson.



Amherst Choir to be a permanent part of new Canton tradition

In November, the Amherst Choir Cubs, under the direction of Cindy Grove, took the stage at the Canton Palace Theater as part of the variety show, *An Old Fashioned Radio Show*, helping to raise more than \$38,000 for the Canton Palace Theater renovation, and the equivalent of 170,000 pounds of food for the Stark County Hunger Task Force. The audience was treated to a performance on the theatre's historic pipe organ and a trip back in time to the glory days of live radio. This was the 127-member Amherst Choir's second appearance in the annual event. Our young singers performed so charmingly and flawlessly that organizers asked them to be a permanent part of the lineup. The show was broadcast live on My 101.7 as the impressive slate of adult and student singers, dancers, and actors performed.



Amherst 4th graders Sarah Benson, Carlea Daugherty, and Kaity Schram at the YMCA for their weekly swimming lesson.

Jackson 4th graders take swimming lessons at the Y

The Jackson curriculum includes swimming lessons for all fourth graders. The program includes a one-hour lesson per week, over the course of six weeks. Jackson buses transport the students to and from the Paul and Carol David YMCA, right here in our community. The students are grouped according to their ability so that they can work on the specific skills they need.



Lake Cable honors veterans

One hundred American veterans, filled the Lake Cable Elementary cafeteria for a breakfast held in their honor. After breakfast, the veterans were escorted by Student Council members into the gymnasium for a patriotic program. Boy Scouts carried the colors into the gym where the veterans joined the audience of approximately 500 students, 50 staff, and 100 non-military guests in the *Pledge of Allegiance*. After the student body sang the *Star Spangled Banner*, each veteran was introduced and applauded. The program ended with *Taps*, and students led veterans to various classrooms to interact with students and see the student work that was on display.



Winning the Battle of the Books were: Bobby Baker, Ricky Dice, Nolan Monigold, and Ryan Duncan.

Literary battle at Lake Cable

The school's 5th graders were required to read six books in order to compete in the annual battle of the books. With nearly 60 students ready for competition, two battles with two rounds of questions in each battle began. The team could discuss its question but was required to give an answer within the 20 second time limit. Sweeping the competition were the Jackson Demolishers with a perfect scores for both battles.

Lake Cable 5th graders make Christmas cards for soldiers

The students carefully crafted several shoe boxes full of cards to be mailed to soldiers. Students districtwide are aware of, inquisitive about, and concerned for our troops.



Alexis Keller



Hunter Gross



Alicia Ford

Teachers bring Titanic history to life at Lake Cable

Teachers Lori Weekley and John Reindel gave 4th graders a taste of Titanic era class distinction when they dressed in period garb and welcomed students aboard an imaginary Titanic. Student passengers seated in the front row had plenty of room. Those seated into the next row had less room, and the remainder were crammed in the final rows, as 3rd class passengers. The teachers used the SMARTboard to wow students about the ship's amenities, then gave the students snacks based on their class designation. As students were dismissed they were reminded that the ship was absolutely unsinkable.





Sauder hearts heap Samaritan's Table

Sauder's entire 5th grade class of 144 students led a community service project to provide St. John's Samaritans Table with a truckload of toiletries. The students collected items from the entire student body, then traveled to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Canton to bag the items with members of the organization.

St. John's Samaritans Table, a division of Community Services of Stark County, Inc., has offered a home cooked, sit-down meal to as many individuals as possible on a weekly basis for the past 23 years.

A parishioner and volunteer in the program since its inception, Nancy Sexton, was unable to help the students

pack the 400+ bags. Mrs. Sexton's funeral was being held across the parking lot in the church at the very same time our students helped carry on her work. "I'm sure she's looking over the children and smiling right now," said Debbie Horn, a friend and director of Human Resources for Community Services of Stark County.

Fifth grade teacher Jeremy Evans said he felt the project "taught students leadership skills (collecting and organizing the donations) and gave students an appreciation for local people who have fallen on hard times."



Students internalized the intended lesson. "It's got to be a challenge to be on the streets, and I feel really good knowing we're helping people along their way," said Marisa Dinko.

"It's surprising to know that people right here in our own community aren't as fortunate as we are," added Bridget Washington.

"It's important to help others and not just focus on yourself," concluded Katelyn Doemel.

Sauder students learn from soldier

Sauder 5th graders welcomed U.S. Marine Todd Osugi to their classroom. Mr. Osugi, son of former Jackson Middle School teacher Ray Osugi, has been a medic for 20 years. He is also a firefighter/paramedic for the Jackson Township Fire Department and SWAT Team, Station 4 at Belden Village. He serves in the Brookpark 325th.



Todd Osugi



Billy LaMothe wears Mr. Osugi's helmet.



Austin Druckenbrod and Franklin Shew examine a field medical kit.



Wearing Mr. Osugi's 80-pound back pack is Kristen Benson. To remain upright, Kristen had to rest the back pack on her desk.

No gifts for Christmas

Strausser Elementary students, following the Fish Philosophy, traded no gifts with one another this Christmas. Instead, they each purchased a food or gift item for one of their school's six chosen local charities. To celebrate this four-year tradition, they gathered together to sing holiday songs to one another and to hundreds of parents who attended the giving party. The four principals of the Fish Philosophy (be there, make their day, choose your attitude, and play) guide most everything done at the school.



Olivia Osburn, Isabella Hellmann, Grace Vickers, McKenna King

Logan Barnes, Christian Hutcheson, Treven Lance, Andy Dragota, Justin Buckland, Vincent McGreal



Jessica Westfall, Anna White, Erica Kovascik, Julie Loveless, Victoria Gotchell, Emily Spencer

Hands-on, how-to

Strausser 3rd grade students were charged with the task of writing a clear set of directions that others could easily follow. Their clever teachers put one of the recent snow storms to good use by having students write direction for building a snowman. After a hands-on session in the snow, followed by hot chocolate and marshmallows, students put pen to paper with step-by-step instructions and bits of advice learned the hard way, such as like, "Try not to get too much grass in the snowballs," and "Don't make your snowballs too big, or you won't be able to lift them." The teachers chose the snowman-making assignment when they discovered that a surprising number of students had not ever built a snowman.



Abby Thomas, Lainie Hartnett, Hanna Sucharzewski, Alyssa Alexsonshk, Paci Greir, Jessica Phillabaum



Austin Kannam, Ben Westfall



Sydney Hindman, Marisa McCauley, Megan Kutty, Diana Lober, Ivory Belsky

Scholar athletes sign college sports contracts

Four Jackson students recently signed athletic scholarships to play their sport in college. Britney Terrell will play volleyball at Wright State University in Dayton. Josh Egner will play basketball at the University of Akron. Brad DuPont will play basketball at Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia. Mark Henniger will play basketball at Kent State University.

Britney said, "I love the competitive nature of volleyball. I love the school, and I am really grateful that they gave me a full scholarship. Britney's coach, Jeff Walck said, "She did everything for us—scored points, played defense. She's an all-around talented and powerful player, and we will miss her."

Josh, Brad, and Mark have played basketball together since elementary school. The three expressed deep



Scholar athletes sign contracts with area universities. From left are Mark Henniger, Britney Terrell, girls volleyball coach Jeff Walck, Josh Egner, boys basketball coach Mike Fuline, and Brad DuPont.

gratitude for the opportunity to receive an education and continue to play their sport. Their coach, Mike Fuline, said, "It's nice to see guys with true passion for the game take full advantage of their Jackson education. When they were in middle school, I went to see them play, and I

knew there was a chance for them to be pretty special. It wasn't height, it was heart. They could play. Winning means a lot to them. As a coach, all you can do is provide opportunities, and these guys took advantage of every one over the past five years."

Argentine singer enlivens Spanish instruction

The JHS gymnasium vibrated with the energy of nearly 900 singing, dancing, Spanish language students from JHS, Norwayne High, Timken, LaBrae, Minerva, Copley Fairlawn, Southeast, Sebring, McKinley, East High School, and East Canton. They came to experience the high-voltage, pop rock performance of Justo Lamas, a singer from Buenos Aires, Argentina, who has earned the admiration of thousands of Spanish teachers and students.

Justo performed the entire concert in Spanish, and encouraged students to sing along. In fact, that's why Spanish teachers love him. Their students like his music, so they visit



To the cheers of 880 fellow students, Melany Bagnola sang a duet, *Te necesito*, with the world-famous Justo Lamas.

his Web site, download his music, learn all the words and the meaning of the words so they can sing along.

Between songs, Justo talked to the students in Spanish and expected them to respond in Spanish. Students were invited to the stage to become part of the highly interactive show. A dozen Jackson dancers performed to *Ríe y llora*, which was choreographed by their classmates Ashley Taylor, Caroline Knauss, and Lauren Klein. The Lamas concert is an educational program with the primary objective of promoting the study of the Spanish language. Woven seamlessly through the show were messages to encourage students to live their dreams in a drug-free, violence-free, family-centered way.

Student teacher/former soldier brings band of brothers to Strausser

Tiffany Adkins, a student teacher at Strausser Elementary is also a U.S. Army veteran. To celebrate Veteran's Day, Mrs. Adkins invited four of her comrades to school to speak with 3rd and 4th graders. Students had plenty of questions for the veterans. They asked about the dangers of roadside bombs, how many seconds before a live grenade detonates, what kinds of guns U.S. soldiers carry, what soldiers did in their spare time, if they were ever under fire, and if they had children who worried about them when they were deployed. Students were surprised to learn that soldiers don't always do battle, that some soldiers build schools for children just like Strausser children. Speaking to the students were Mrs. Adkins who spent one year in Iraq, Army Staff Sgt. Jake Keaton



Iraq soldiers Jake Keaton, Jesse Hensel, and Jason Adkins pose with a classroom of Strausser students

who spent two years in Iraq and Egypt, Army Specialist Jesse Hensel who spent 14 months in Iraq, and Corporal Jason

Adkins who not only spent 12 months in Iraq but also met his wife who became our student teacher.

Kumon Kids

JMMS 6th grader Simran Vaidya has achieved "Algebra by 5th Grade" in Kumon Math and received the STAR award. She is a dedicated, hard working, 3-year Kumon student who sets very high goals for herself.



Simran Vaidya

Daria El-Badewi has received the Trig- Pre-Calculus by 8th Grade Award. Daria is a dedicated, 9-year Kumon student. She hopes to complete all the levels of the Kumon Math and Reading program before 10th grade in pursuit of top scores on her SATs and ACTs.



Daria El-Badewi

Bowling Best

Vinnie Yacono, a 7th grader at JMMS, bowled his best score ever on Nov. 29, at Park Center Lanes. His scores were 206, 206 and 211 for a series of 623. Vinnie, a 5-year bowler, comes from a family of bowlers and hopes to someday be on the high school league.



Vinnie Yacono



Ashley Sherrod (left) and Audrey Cleaver-Bartholomew

Canton Ballerinas

JHS students Ashley Sherrod and Audrey Cleaver-Bartholomew performed the numbers, *The Kingdom of Snow* and *Waltz of the Flowers*, in the Canton Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* under the artistic direction of Cassandra Crowley.

Girl Scouts

Jackson Girl Scouts completed a service project called Cookies for Public Servants where Scouting troops within our community donated cookies and made 30 delicious-looking trays before delivering them to the fire and police stations, each school, the bus garage, the library, and Township Hall.

Patel girls donate hair

Amherst 1st grader Tithi Patel cut off 18 inches of her hair and donated it to Locks of Love, the non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children with cancer. Tithi's three-year-old sister Ziya cut and donated 10 inches of her hair.



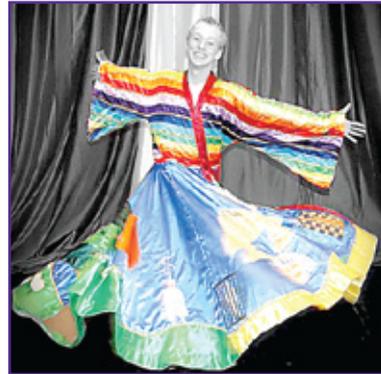
Tithi Patel



Ziya Patel



Girl Scout Abbie Heck and her mom troop leader mom Kari, Troop 124



Technicolor Dreamcoat

ISA senior Aaron Darr recently played the lead, Joseph, in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Weathervane Theatre in Akron. Aaron has been accepted to the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in NYC.

Three make Eagle

Members of Troop 935 Clayton M. Smith, Connor L. Reese, and Alex A. Weber have earned the Eagle Scout Award. They are among the 4% of all Boy Scouts to attain the rank. Clayton is the 7th member of his family to earn the award and the 45th scout from Troop 935 to earn it since the troop was founded in 1967. Connor is the 46th, and Alex is the 47th member of the troop to earn the rank. Each

candidate must earn 21 merit badges and successfully complete a community service project to earn his Eagle.

Clayton constructed an outdoor amphitheater at McDonaldsville St. Paul United Methodist Church. Connor constructed five raised planter boxes at Strausser Elementary for students to use in science experiments. Alex restored the landscaping at St. George Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church.

These three men join other outstanding Americans who have become Eagle Scouts, among them former President Gerald R. Ford, Jr., astronaut Neil A. Armstrong, cinematographer Steven Spielberg, and former head of the F.B.I. William Sessions.



Clayton Smith



Connor Reese



Alex Weber

JHS celebrates Veteran's day by honoring staff who served and continue to serve

SCOTT ELKINS enlisted in the military right out of high school, seeing it as a window of opportunity for higher education, considering his limited resources. He has served for 23 years in active duty in the Reserves and National Guard. He has traveled to Europe, Asia, the Middle East and throughout North America in peace and war. Mr. Elkins, a US Army Captain, recently returned from service as Company Commander in Egypt where he was in charge of the Brigade Headquarters Detachment. He also served as a Brigade Operations Officer in charge of tactical and logistical movement of troops and equipment throughout Egypt and Israel. The Brigade is a multinational force of 11 nations with 2000 soldiers and civilians. Being away from his family for long periods has been difficult, as is leaving his full-time position as Cisco Networking instructor at JHS. Captain Elkins realizes that it is also difficult for the school district to employ a substitute in his absence.

DOUG BOWER was drafted into the US Air Force in 1969 just after graduating from Wittenberg University with a degree in sacred music. He did basic training and tech school at Lackland AF Base in San Antonio, Texas and was sent to Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa for 3 ½ years, during which time he was promoted to staff sergeant. He worked as Flight Chief, did a six-month assignment on Miyako, an island off Okinawa, and also played the organ for chapel services. Mr. Bower said, "My time in the service was very rewarding. It was really just like any eight-hour job. I did my shift and then was free to do as I liked. My friends and I spent most of our free time snorkeling in the ocean." He was honorably discharged in August 1973 after serving 4 years. Mr.



Bower is the director of music at his church and a member of Canton's hand bell choir, Bel' VOICI. He is manager/technical director of the Jackson Center for the Performing Arts at JHS.

LORAIN OBLISK joined the Army Reserve in January 1980 when she was nearly 22, and sometimes wishes she were still involved. She served 3 ½ years in active reserves then became a mother. At that time, women could leave the service if they so chose. She left with the rank of staff sergeant. Mrs. Oblisk was stationed at Fort McClellan,

Alabama, San Antonio, Texas Graylyn, Michigan and Fort Campbell, Kentucky. She now serves as a bus driver for Jackson Local.

MATT ROMIG, a former US Marine sergeant, was honorably discharged in 1987. He was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and served in Japan for one year. Trained as a diesel mechanic, he is now the head custodian at JHS. He said being in the Marines gave him a greater appreciation for the country we live in.

JIM DRAY was a Sergeant in the US Army. He served 4 years in Vietnam and Okinawa. Mr. Dray enlisted in 1964. He felt that it was his duty to serve in Vietnam. In December, Mr. Dray retired from the position of JHS security officer after 10 years of service.

CHRISTINE MCKAY graduated college with a degree in English but was uncertain about becoming a teacher. Accompanying a friend to an Army recruiting office, she found herself interested in service to her country and enlisted in the Marines. Upon graduation from Officers Candidates School, she went to The Basic School at Quantico and was among the first group of women to receive combat training with men. Mrs. McKay served for nearly 15 years, 13 as an officer. She spent 27 months in Okinawa, and while there was deployed on pay missions to South Korea, and Camp Fuji, Japan. When she returned to Camp Lejeune, she deployed to cold weather training operations in Wisconsin and Norway. All of her officer billets were served in the Fleet Marine Force. Mrs. McKay is now an intervention specialist at JHS.

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