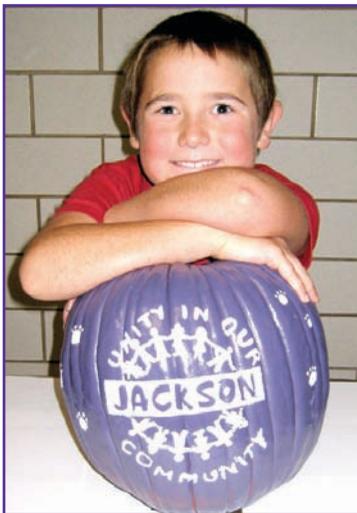




Unity in Jackson is a purple pumpkin

Sauder 3rd grader, Trace Thomas, won his classroom's pumpkin decorating contest in the category of "most spirited" for his Unity in Our Community, purple pumpkin. After he spray-painted it and part of his family's garage floor purple, his mom helped him reproduce and apply the design that is worn on purple shirts by all staff districtwide every Friday. "Unity is cool," Trace said.



Update on International Baccalaureate

Jackson is one step closer to becoming home to an International Baccalaureate (IB) program that would serve a select group of Jackson, North Canton and Perry juniors and seniors beginning in school year 2010- 2011. JHS was recently visited by the IB site approval team, which is part of the two-year process that our high school must undergo before being approved to offer the IB course of study. The district will receive notification of approval or rejection in January, and if approved, we can move forward with teacher training

which will be paid through a Senior to Sophomore grant which Jackson sought and received from the Ohio State Department of Education.

The rigorous IB curriculum is a symbol of academic excellence worldwide.

The program would be open to a total of 25 juniors and 25 seniors from all three school districts. These students would be Stark County's first IB students and would have the potential to graduate high school with up to 36 hours of college credit.

Jackson High and Lake Cable win national academic award

On September 15, the 2009 National Blue Ribbon Schools were announced by U. S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. Jackson High School and Lake Cable Elementary were among the 314 of the nation's 120,000 public and private schools to achieve this status (19 from Ohio).

The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to levels in the top 10% of the nation.

"These schools, and many others across the state, are setting a high bar for our students — who are proving to be among the best in the nation," said U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown in a news release.

"This is a tremendous honor," said JHS principal Rick Campbell, adding, "We have teachers and support staff working extremely hard, kids coming to school wanting to excel, and parents pushing for excellence. When a high school gets this kind of award, it means the process starts in kindergarten and comes all the way up. This award is an honor for the entire district and the community because everyone along the line has done his or her part, all working together and all wanting the district to be excellent."

Lake Cable principal Kathy Clark also wanted to share the honor. "This is every educator's dream for their school. It is a testament to the dedication and expertise of our outstanding staff, the hard work of our students, and the academic reinforcement from our students' families. It also speaks volumes about our community's support for high-quality education and our district as a whole because our entire district is supported by a highly capable Board of Education and top administrators who are always looking for the best ways to keep Jackson on the cutting edge."

Superintendent Cheryl Haschak added, "I am so proud of Jackson Local educators for making students their first priority and our taxpayers for the kind of support that contributes to the possibility of such an important award being bestowed on not one, but incredibly, two Jackson schools. This shows that our slogan, Unity in Our Community, is not just words, it's an attitude that leads to excellence that benefits everyone."

Look for the Blue Ribbon flag flying at each of these schools as a mark of pride for the entire community.



After the announcement that Lake Cable had been named a blue ribbon school, the parent-teacher group decorated the school yard with blue ribbons to kick off a student/staff celebration. See story, page 11.

Financial things you should know
See page 3



H1N1 vaccine to be administered at school

All inquires directed to Stark County Health Department
With signed parental permission, the Stark County Health Department will administer the H1N1 vaccine to students grades 6-12 during the school day. Grades K-5 will have the opportunity to receive the vaccine after school hours with a parent present. Any questions regarding the vaccine, the administration of it, or the disease itself can be best answered by the Stark County Health Department. www.starkhealth.org, or 330-493-9904.

Did You Know?
Jackson Local has fewer administrators per student than any district in Stark County.

JHS Habitat Club begins construction on 13th home

Students set goal to raise \$10,000 for the effort. You can help and clean your garage as well.

At 8:30 on any fall Saturday morning, you'd probably expect to find high school students still enjoying the comforts of their beds, grabbing some extra winks after a week of early-morning classes. Not the members of the Jackson High School Habitat Club, though. This group of dedicated kids is already on a Habitat build site, talking, laughing, and hard at work helping another local family achieve the dream of home ownership. September 19 marked the beginning of the group's 13th house built with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Stark & Carroll Counties. This year's home is being constructed at 147 Rose Ave. SE in Massillon.

One of only two high schools in Ohio to have its own sanctioned campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity, the JHS Habitat Club



At the job site, front from left: Savannah Clevenger, Lauren Wind, Trisha Conlan, teacher Brian Clevenger, and Brook Riddle. Back row: Kaitlin Miller, teacher Roy Dria, Asti Ambartsumian, Alex Ambartsumian, Heath Reichenbach, Ian Cameron, Nathan Gardner, homeowner's daughter Karah Pritchard, and homeowner Heide Bennage.



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Unity in Our Community Pancake Breakfast and Health Fair raises funds for YMCA Strong Kids



Continuing the Unity in Our Community spirit, Jackson Local Schools held its second annual all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast and health fair at the high school, raising funds for YMCA Strong Kids, a program that ensures no family is turned away from life-enhancing YMCA programs.

To get a jump on the crowd of 2,000, several members of the school cafeteria staff volunteered to begin making pancakes at 5:00 a.m. But even that was not enough. When the crowd was at its peak, neighboring kitchens at the Jackson Fire Department and 3 Brothers Corner Tavern lent a hand.

The health fair placed 38 vendors before the public, offering services in the areas of: vision, blood pressure and spinal screenings, fitness, dental, insurance, nutrition, home health care, mental health, aromatherapy, and information from Boy Scouts, and Jackson police and fire departments.

The event's success was due to the cooperative efforts of over 500 community volunteers, including teachers, students, and community friends. Monetary and material donations were received from:

Aultman Hospital, Bear's Den Students and Staff, Bordners and Food 4 Less, Bruner-Cox, LLP - Ron Manse, Buehler's Foods, Chevalier Chiropractic, Chick-fil-A, Cross Country Marketing, Dave Huthmacher & JPBN students, DeHoff Realtors, Giant Eagle, Gordon Foods, Huntington Bank, Jackson Belden Chamber of Commerce, Jackson Girl Scouts, JHS Cafeteria Staff, JHS Custodial Staff, JHS Library, Jackson Township Safety Center, Jane Hawkins and Boy Scouts, Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A., Massillon Cable TV, Inc., Dr. Matt Thiel, DDS, Meghan Coleman Graphic Design, Mercy Medical Center, Miday's Nursery, Millwood, Mix 94.1, Nickles Bakery, Rita's Italian Ice, Rohr & Sons Nursery, Sheetz, Smith Dairy, Smucker's, SONIC, Starbucks, The Suburbanite, Sysco, Dr. Ted Rath - Optometry Associates, That Little Italian Kitchen, 3 Brothers Corner Tavern, Top of the Viaduct, Visiting Angels, Winkhart & Rambacher, Attorneys at Law.

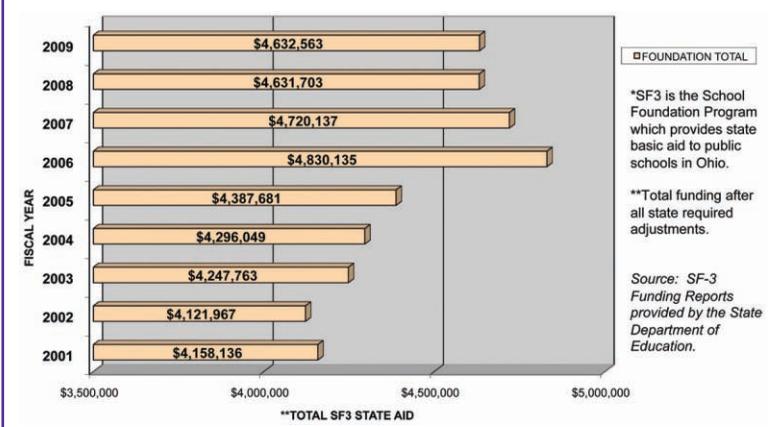


Keeping our schools funded is a constant, ever-changing challenge

District treasurer, Linda Paris has submitted Jackson Local's general fund five-year budget forecast. It is called a forecast because it is a work in progress. The reader should realize that a forecast is based on a snap shot of today, adjusted to reflect all known activities and making predictions about what may happen. In other words, it is a living document and planning tool that can become outdated as new information comes to light, which may introduce new known events or changes in assumptions for the future.

To see the five-year forecast, visit the Jackson Local Web site at <http://jackson.stark.k12.oh.us> then go to **FINANCIAL** under the **DISTRICT** tab.

State funds to Jackson are flat and expected to decrease



The chart above shows that the state only contributes \$4.7 million to Jackson's \$46 million budget. This points out just how dependent Jackson is on the local taxpayer.

The current forecast reflects three years of historical revenues and expenditures of the General Fund and five years of forecasted data. The General Fund reflects the receipt and expenditure of most tax dollars, but does not reflect all financial activity of a school district.

Here is what the numbers show today

The current forecast shows a balanced budget for the current and next three fiscal years, providing the 2006 five-year emergency levy passes again by 2011.

A deficit becomes evident again in 2014, amounting to \$2.5 million.

There are reasons for this

- To enhance positive academic outcomes, the state governor has asked schools to decrease class sizes, hire additional school counselors, add gifted education programs, improve technology, increase building maintenance, and add all-day/every day kindergarten.
- Jackson will suffer a 1% decrease in state funding this year and a 2% decrease next year.
- For the first time in as long as most

Jacksonites can remember, our township has experienced a reduction in residential property values (-3.8) in addition to the lowest commercial growth in years. Local property valuation greatly impacts the schools.

Here is what we have done so far to contain costs

In addition to the more than \$2 million in previous cuts that we continue to keep in place, the district constantly seeks ways to trim the budget.

- Jackson Local has joined a consortium that is projected to save 25% on electrical generation costs in all of our buildings.
- Two more administrative positions have been eliminated.
- A reading specialist position has been eliminated.
- Constant diligence keeps our cafeterias self-supporting.
- Cost saving ideas for busing are continually reviewed.
- We work cooperatively with the township to de-ice all schools.

Stimulus funds helped, but are not permanent

The stimulus funds could only be used

in ways earmarked by the federal and state governments: To pay the salaries of teachers or purchase materials for Title I (reading intervention) and/or special education. Because the funds would not be a continuing source of revenue, Jackson chose to make the dollars as permanent as possible by purchasing SmartBoards to aid these students' education.

Levy renewal necessary

An emergency levy was passed in 2006. Because the current forecast indicates a budget deficit of \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2014, it will be necessary to at least renew the emergency levy sometime in school year 2010-2011. The term "emergency levy" simply means a levy that generates a specified (fixed) level of annual funding, regardless of changes in property values.

Treasurer can answers your questions

Since the preparation of a meaningful five-year forecast is as much of an art as it is a science, it is recommended that you contact the treasurer with your questions, rather than make assumptions. Mrs. Paris can be reached at 330-830-8002.

Jackson rated EXCELLENT nine consecutive years

Please join your school district in the celebration of its ninth consecutive year of excellence as rated by the Ohio State Department of Education, using information from our state report card.

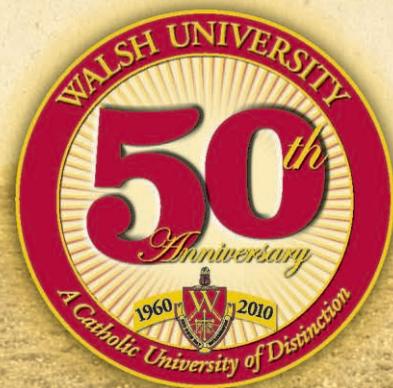
In the photo at right, Deborah Cain, president of the Ohio State Board of Education proudly delivers this year's banners to Superintendent Haschak. Look for the banner at each of our six school buildings. The State Board of Education is a 19-member board that creates policy and makes recommendations for K-12 education in Ohio.



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High School

**Snakes
 teach JHS
 biology
 students
 more than
 genetics**

Lee Ann Kalkhoff's, advanced placement (AP) biology students saw genetics in real time as they bred two corn snakes of different colors then waited for the eggs to hatch



With their experimental corn snakes are, from left: Brittany Caldwell, Haley Prelac, Rose Digianantonio, Clayton Casper, Stephanie Schneider, Hannah Selinkky, and Katy Phillips.

so they could compare their predictions to the actual genetic variations of the offspring. The snakes, which the students named Dora and Diego, had nine babies which were a hit in the science department as students and several snake phobic teachers made their peace with the reptiles. Mrs. Kalkhoff said several teachers frequently stopped by for what they referred to as snake therapy, first looking, then touching, then holding the snakes who are really only interested in biting baby mice.

"The babies are so cute, and I love them," said student Katy Phillips. "They're so friendly," added Haley Prelac.

Mrs. Kalkhoff took every opportunity to teach about the snake's value in nature as an important part of the food chain, pointing out that when a species of snake is eradicated, it creates an overpopulation of another species, such as mice.

AP students were permitted to hold the snakes during class as they took notes. Clayton Casper said, "I hold Diego in my left hand and take notes with my right. Indiana Jones was afraid of snakes, but I am not. As the only two guys in the class, Diego and I are good friends."



JHS Homecoming Court

The 2009 homecoming court are, front from left: Alaina Shock, Hannah Gayheart, Jamie Dorman, homecoming queen **Rissa Neuenschwander**, Audrey Altieri, and Emily Jacobson. Back row: Miles Griffin, Nick Sellari, Steve Griffin, homecoming king **Louie Thomas**, Dave Ertle, and Jesse Gearhart.

HABITAT *Continued from page 1*

includes more than 100 students each year who swing hammers and raise awareness about the need for decent housing.

Our students are very hard workers and get the job done with time to spare," said JHS construction technology teacher Brian Clevenger, who co-advises the club with fellow JHS science teacher Roy Dria.

In addition to building their Saturday building adventures, the club is working toward a goal of donating \$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Stark and Carroll County.

"Last year, the club donated \$1,000, and when they set their goal for this year, all I could say was, 'Wow'. These kids spend a large number of hours on weekends and after school, for which they are not compensated, to not only build a house, but also fundraise. I just can't say enough and I'm very proud of them."

The students are planning a Cici's Pizza fundraising night, a walk-a-thon, and a tool donation drive.

JHS parents and community members can help the JHS Habitat Club reach its lofty goal by donating items to the Habitat ReStore. Donations such as used building material, furniture, appliances, doors, cabinets and more can be dropped off at the ReStore, or free pick up is available for larger items. When making a donation, be sure to mention the JHS Habitat Club, so our group can receive credit. For more information about the ReStore and what items the store accepts, visit www.restorestark.org. "Donors get a tax receipt for that value, and our chapter gets credit for the donation. It could be great way for people to clean out the basement or garage and save on their taxes," Mr. Clevenger said.



JSA students get standing ovation as they debut musical piece

Jackson School for the Arts (JSA) students Guenna Bolinger, Ethan Ash and Leanne Golden are serving an internship with concert pianist and artist in residence, Don Irwin, to compose a piece of music that will represent the five houses of JSA, dance, instrumental, vocal, visual, and theatrical. Mr. Irwin's services are paid for by an anonymous donor and funds from the SmARTS grant which the district received from Arts in Stark.

"It was amazing and worthy of publication," said JSA director Susan Gardner. "I hope to see that accomplished."

The students do not plan to stop at the ovation. "What we have in mind will be big," said Guenna, explaining that they will continue refining the piece for a 2nd debut at the Arts Extravaganza in February. It is expected to be a theatrical production by then, with lyrics to be written after surveying other students on what it means to be part of JSA. It will be performed with other students' visual arts being projected behind them and JSA dancers performing alongside them.

The group performed the seven-page piece at a school concert and received a standing ovation.



JSA students Guenna Bolinger, Ethan Ash and Leanne Golden work with concert pianist Don Irwin.

With gratitude, Leanne said, "If we didn't have JSA, we'd never have the opportunity to work with someone like Mr. Irwin."

"This experience is broadening our horizons so

much," Ethan added.

"I enjoy working with talented kids who are doing something, going someplace," Mr. Irwin said. "I know these three will be successful at whatever they choose."



JHS presents its five National Merit semifinalists

Michelle Hummel, Ethan Sales, Abby Whistler, Rohan Bhargavd, and Ethan Ash are among the nation's 16,000 semifinalists in the 55th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented seniors are in competition for some 8,200 National Merit Scholarships to be offered next spring.

Michelle hopes to study environmental engineering. "I love nature and want to protect it," she said. Ethan Ash plans to have a double major in English and secondary education. "Teaching is a good way to make a difference," he said,

Kneeling are Michelle Hummel, Ethan Sales, and Abby Whistler. Standing are Rohan Bhargavd and Ethan Ash.

adding, "My teachers have provided me with many growth points and inspiration." Ethan Sales expects to study biology and applied mathematics, ultimately becoming a trauma physician, dermatologist or medical researcher. "It's all about how I can come to benefit the community," he said. Abby will study political science and economics. "I want to be a policy advisor for the government, maybe making a positive difference from behind the scenes as a researcher," she said. Rohan is considering law, international relations, and finance. "I hope to engender some positive change in the world," he said.

Jackson FFA Chapter gratefully accepts generous donation

The JHS Future Farmers of America (FFA) Club accepted a donation of \$3300 from John Matthews of PBS Animal Health located in Massillon. The donation was part of a nationwide program sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health where local animal care suppliers could donate to FFA chapters of their choice. Mr. Matthews, who sons Christopher and Evan graduated from Jackson High School in 2001 and 2009, chose the Jackson High School FFA chapter. Jackson FFA is a youth leadership organization for students in the horticulture program. Members of the Jackson FFA will use the donation to purchase new wheelbarrows, new greenhouse carts, and a digital camera. The students also plan to attend a leadership conference at FFA Camp Muskingum.



FFA president, Morgan Blair and her classmates, receive a \$3300 donation from John Matthews of PBS Animal Health

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

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Middle School



Sixth grade students play get-to-know-you games with mentors and each other on the first day of middle school.

JMMS 8th graders welcome 6th graders on the first day of school

Remember when you graduated from elementary school to middle school or junior high school? Many of us spent the summer preceding the move worrying if we'd fit in, if we'd find our classrooms on time, if we'd be teased by upperclassmen.

JMMS principal, Monica Myers, wanted to ease those fears in her upcoming class of 6th graders, so she instituted a mentoring program for 6th graders, similar to the one that has worked so well for high school freshmen over the past few years.

Overseeing the program is guidance counselor Karlyn Cunningham who signed up 77 eager eighth-grade students to act

as mentors to all 500 sixth-graders.

On the first day, 8th graders spent all day with their mentorees, making sure the younger students felt welcomed, fit in, and could follow their class schedule.

"The program made a huge school of 1,400 students feel much smaller," Mrs. Cunningham said.

Mrs. Cunningham felt the day's success was summed up by a 5th grader who said, "I just felt so calm all day."

The work of a mentor continues throughout the year. They will make periodic checks on their mentorees answering their questions, asking after

their grades, and attending school functions with them. Recently, 8th graders attended the 6th grade Halloween party and made sure everyone was mixing. They will also attend the 6th grade lip sync contest in the spring.

"The idea is to create relationships across grade levels," Mrs. Cunningham explained.

Next year, the 8th graders will move to the high school and will be mentored by juniors and seniors. "Our 8th grade mentors will likely have a great appreciation for what is being done for them," said Mrs. Cunningham.

Variety of safety drills conducted in all school buildings

Near the beginning of the school year and periodically throughout the year, various safety drills take place in all of our school buildings. Throughout the school year, students and staff practice three tornado drills, one lock down, and one fire drill per month.

Recently at JMMS, students practiced a building evacuation during a class change. They were to exit the building via the door closest to them, then report to their assigned gathering site away from the building where their teacher took attendance and accounted for each student.

"In a building with 1,400 students, it's important that everyone understands the drill procedures," said building principal Monica Myers.



JMMS student practice a tornado drill by exiting classrooms to an interior hallway. They crouch and cover their heads as most tornado deaths are caused by head injuries.

The middle school was evacuated in three minutes and 45 seconds. "Our students follow directions very well," said Mrs. Myers.

During such a drill, a large plastic storage container also exits the building. The "To Go Box" as it is called, contains a copy of each student's medical records and parent contact information which would be needed in the event of a full-scale emergency.

Students dress to denote 9-11 tragedy

JMMS students Matt Lowry, John Lowry, and Hunter Reichenbach requested permission from their principal to wear their Civil Air Patrol uniforms to school on September 11 as a sign of respect for those lost. As cadets in the U. S. Airforce auxiliary, the three are proud to attend regular meetings at the National Guard Recruiting Station in North Canton.



From left are Matt Lowry, John Lowry, and Hunter Reichenbach.

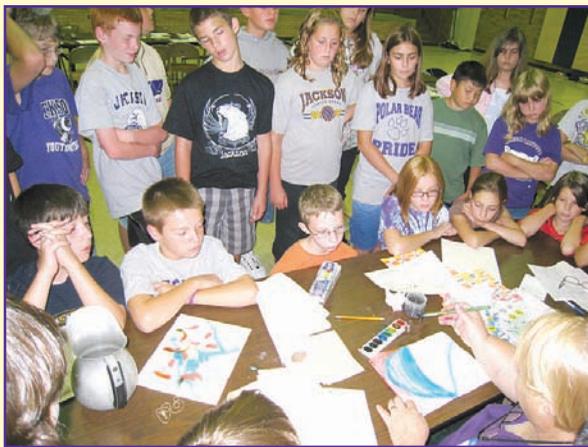
"I'd recommend the Civil Air Patrol to anyone who wants more responsibility and more integrity," said Matt.

"It has given me a lot more respect for people serving our country, and my grades have improved through being more disciplined and doing what's right," John said.

"I like the physical training, learning how to be a leader, and having more knowledge of what's going on in the world," said Hunter.

Sixth graders combine poetry and art

Funds from the Arts in Stark SmARTS grant have enabled JMMS 6th graders to spend time with local artist, Kathy Jevic, who taught them to turn their poetry into pieces of visual art. Students began by writing poems, titled *The Magic of Me*. The poems were then cut into one-inch strips and woven with strips of the watercolor paintings that the students created under the direction of Mrs. Jevic. Next, the students highlighted words that could still be seen in the woven piece to create a new poem. The SmARTS grant enables the district to enhance the artistic learning opportunities of students grades 6 through 12, specifically students in the Jackson School for the Arts.



Random act of kindness is noticed and appreciated

Joey Croston, a JMMS 6th grader was recently honored by his school principals and guidance counselor for a good deed. After a bus incident necessitated that a few students walk home a greater distance than usual, Joey recognized that a classmate, Max Kerr, who has cerebral



palsy, was struggling with his heavy book bag. Joey carried his own books Max's books all the way to Max's house. The next day, Max's mother called the school principal to comment on the kindness and ask that Joey be recognized.

"People are really quick to point out the bad in people, so I thought it was important to point out the good in Joey. He was there for Max," Mrs. Kerr said.

Joey was called to the principal's office and was a bit nervous on the way there because he thought he had done something wrong. It turned out, that his principal, Monica Myers, assistant principal Dave Waltman, and guidance counselor Luis Lacourt wanted to share a pizza with him for his good deed.

"I was just trying to help," Joey said. "Max is my friend."

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Karlene Cook, nominated to the 2009 Stark County Teaching Team, is pictured with a few of her students: Tanner Tolarchyk, Clarissa Young, Addy Gimerek, Ben Hoover, Leo Olson, and Paige Schlitzer.



Rebecca Aowad, nominated to the 2009 Stark County Rookie Team, is pictured with a few of her students: Max Kerr, Miah Wilson, Andrew Bruno, Anthony Stewart, Erica Fowler, and Kyle Harris.

Two Jackson teachers named to Stark County Teaching and Rookie Teams

Sauder kindergarten teacher Karlene Cook was named to the 2009 Stark County Teaching Team. The team is a group of teachers from 22 area school districts who were selected for their outstanding service.

Rebecca Aowad, a 2002 Jackson grad and now a 6th grade language arts teacher at JMMS, was named to the Stark County Rookie Team, which is composed of outstanding educators with three or less years of teaching experience.

Team members are nominated yearly by the community and chosen to represent their district by a selection committee made up of superintendents from each Stark County school district and a representative from each Stark County College and

University.

The two groups were honored at the Mix 94.1 and News-Talk 1480 WHBC Education Celebration Banquet on Oct. 29 at the R. G. Drage Career Technical Center.



The Jackson High School Football Team held a food drive where approximately 2250 food items were donated and delivered to YWCA, Family Living Center Shelter of Massillon and the North Canton Church of Christ Food Bank.

AlumNotes

From Jackson to Juilliard and beyond

Rachelle Rafailedes, a 2005 graduate of JHS, has received a Bachelors of Fine Arts from the Juilliard School. Rachelle received the Martha Hill Prize for her outstanding achievement and leadership in dance, and was also selected to be a member of The Juilliard School's first international tour which performed in France and Germany. Rachelle lives and works in NYC.



Help grad play lacrosse in Australia

Vincent Diana, son of Tim and Kathy Diana, graduated from JHS in 2006 with a .700 lacrosse save percentage and is still going strong. At Mercyhurst-North East, he was a two-time National Junior College Athletic Association All-Region III performer and two-time member of the Western NY Athletic Conference Team. He was voted team MVP as a freshman and took home Male Student-Athlete of the Year honors as a sophomore. In two years as the Saint's goalie, Vincent recorded 491 saves, including 325 as a sophomore, and posted a career .667 saves percentage, while also collecting 74 ground balls. He then became starting goalie for the University of Detroit Mercy during the school's inaugural lacrosse season. A senior at UDM, he serves as one of four team captains. Vincent has been invited by USA-Athletes International to be part of the 18-member tournament team headed for Australia. Because the players must fund their own trip, Vincent is hosting an All-U-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner, Sunday, November 29, from 11 AM-2 PM, Eagles 109-303 Weirich Blvd., Massillon. Adults \$10, Children 10 & Under \$6. Tickets available by calling 330-832-5904 or 330-806-3554 or 330-837-4347.



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Senior Citizens pay half price for athletic tickets

If you are age 65 or over, you can attend all regular season varsity contests for half price. (Excluding football) Your general admission ticket will cost \$3.

School Calendar

November	25-30	Thanksgiving Break
December	21	1st Day Christmas Break
January	4	Classes Resume
	15	End 2nd 9 weeks
	18	Martin Luther King Day - No School (K-12)
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
May	14	No School (K-12)
	31	Memorial Day - No School (K-12)
June	4	Last Day of School

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



One-day holiday sale at JHS

Stop by the high school to purchase your fresh holiday poinsettias, live evergreen wreaths, artificial wreaths, and centerpieces. Monday, Nov. 23 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

The Children's Show

Parents may remember the Saturday morning classic, *School House Rock*, with songs such as *I'm Just a Bill*, *Unpack Your Adjectives*, *Three is a Magic Number*, *The Great American Melting Pot*, and *Do the Circulation*. Enjoy a trip down memory lane as student actors from the Jackson School for the Arts (JSA) dance, sing, and act in *School House Rock Live, Jr.* Your child will have fun learning about language arts, science, social studies, and math.

Choose between a 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. show. Tickets are \$6, adults and \$5, children.

Workshop follows morning show

Following the 10 a.m. performance, JSA students will offer a one-hour, experiential children's workshop that will offer dancing and a variety of crafts to enhance their experience from the musical. **Workshop tickets are \$4 and must be purchased by Wednesday, Dec. 9** through Mrs. Stefanie Fatzinger, director of theatre, 330-837-3501, ext. 1449 or via e-mail at saf2jc@jackson.sparcc.org. Tickets for either performance may be purchased in advance or at the door.

Jackson Jazz Festival

On Thursday January 28, the JHS Jazz Ensembles will be in concert with guest artist, Rich Shanklin for the 2010 Jackson Jazz Festival, 7 p.m. in the Jackson Performing Arts Auditorium. Mr. Shanklin, professor of saxophone and jazz studies at the University of Akron, will be our artist in residence, conducting clinics with the JMMS 7th and 8th grade Jazz Ensembles for an entire week preceding the concert. Tickets are \$5 and available at the JHS Main Office, JMMS Main Office, or by contacting any member of Jackson HS Jazz Ensemble I or II beginning in December.

Amherst Choir Cubs invited to sing at An Old Fashioned Canton Christmas

Canton Palace Theater, Saturday, Nov. 13
Tickets available through the Canton Palace Theater. The entire show will also be broadcast live by MY 101.7 All proceeds benefit Stark County Hunger Task Force and Canton Palace Theatre. For information, www.cantonchristmas.org. Two Amherst fifth grade students will talk about their show as they co-host with Gary Rivers on MY 101.7 on Nov. 5.

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Board Meeting Schedule

Nov. 17	Lake Cable	6:30 PM
Dec. 15	Amherst	6:30 PM

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

JHS Key Club Craft Show

Saturday, Nov. 21, Jackson High School, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Spanish Club preps packages to send to soldiers.

Spanish Club will send your soldier a care package

The Jackson High School 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. The club project, now in its seventh year of operation, has sent over 100 care packages. If you have a loved one in military service, our Spanish Club would like them to know we care. Just call the club advisor, Carol Harmon, at 330-837-3501 and provide her with an address.

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Want to know the straight facts about your district?

Become a Key Communicator, or ask a Key Communicator.



Key Communicators is an exciting program that takes community leaders behind the scenes for an in-depth look at Ohio's 19th most successful district. At each meeting, you will spend time with our staff and superintendent, focusing on district operations, from buses to balance sheets. As a graduate of our Key Communicators program, you will be among Jackson's most informed citizens and most important communicators of accurate school-related information. You will be able to communicate what you know to people in your circle of influence as topics surface naturally day-to-day.

Key Communicators commit to five lunch meetings with the superintendent and various school officials. As a graduate of the Key Communicators program, Superintendent Haschak will consult with you periodically via e-mail for your input on various topics, and will want to hear community concerns and ideas from you indefinitely.

This year's five meetings will be held the 2nd Wednesday of the month, January through May, from 11:30-1:00 in the Bear's Den student-run restaurant at Jackson High School. **If you are interested, please contact Paula Blangger – pblangger@neo.rr.com or 330-497-0883.**

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Amherst Elementary

Students trek for new walking track

Amherst students took to the school hallways to raise funds for a walking track that PTO will build in their school yard. They collected pledges from family and friends for a one-hour walk at school. Although the goal was to raise \$5,000 with this event, excited students brought in \$8,500.

The project, estimated to cost approximately \$20,000, will require several fundraisers. When it is complete, community members will also be welcome to use the track during non-school hours. The PTO hopes to begin construction in the fall 2010 or spring of 2011.

Co-chairs of the event were parents Angie Walsh and Joan Uhl. Mrs. Walsh estimated that a lap around the school halls totaled about a third of a mile. With 524 students and all staff making three or more laps, it is safe to estimate that the Amherst halls of learning accepted well over 500 miles of pitter-patter during the event. Four students made 15 laps. They are: first grader Clay Ricker, second grader Bryan Hastler, third grader McKenna Sturtz, and fifth grader Jason Cawthorn. The school's librarian, Laura Marciniak, wore a pedometer that day and noted that she walked six miles.

Students stopped at stations along the way to drink water and eat apple slices. They were also encouraged by Sgt. Jim Youngdahl of the U.S. Army National Guard and 10 members of the JHS Cross Country Team. The walk was scheduled to take place outdoors, but rainy weather necessitated a move indoors. Offering donations for the success of the event were Sunny Slopes Apple Orchard, Rita's Ice, Young Chef's Academy, and the YMCA.



Sgt. Jim Youngdahl of the U.S. Army National Guard encourages the walkers by doing push-ups.



Josh Benner and Lucas Schroades, members of the JHS Cross Country Team, encourage the young walkers.

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Kindergarten Safari

Mrs. Mundy and Mrs. Raymond's all day kindergarten students traveled to Rolling Ridge Ranch in Millersburg. They visited the petting zoo and took a horse-drawn covered wagon ride through the 80-acre park, feeding some of the 500 animals that roam the ranch, such as the aoudad, white elk, eland, grant zebra, water buffalo, and sika deer, miniature donkey, baby calves, sheep, rabbits, and goats, camels, kangaroos, spider monkeys, African crested porcupine, ring-tail, and lemur.



At right, Danny Caldwell and Jonah Stevenson feed an ostrich.

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Red Ribbon Week Second graders wear red, to show they are proud to be drug free.

Lake Cable students, staff, parents celebrate their blue ribbon

To kick off a student/staff Blue Ribbon School celebration, the Lake Cable parent-teacher group decorated the school yard with blue ribbons that greeted students and staff as they arrived at school one morning. Later that day, every student was given a t-shirt bearing a blue ribbon and the slogan, "It takes all of us to make one of these." The school principal, Kathy Clark, called a special assembly for the entire student body so that she could explain to the children just how important the award was and to thank them for being such hard workers. When Mrs. Clark pointed out that then teachers also work very hard, the cheers and applause from the students nearly lifted the school roof. Then Mrs. Clark shouted in her best coach's voice, "Is the best we can do all we can do?" and the student response was an instant and resounding "NO." She proceeded to thank the PTO to more pounding applause from the students, then led the entire group outdoors to a playground party which the PTO planned for the students. They ate blue cupcakes and blue snow cones. They danced to music provided by DJ Jerry Mac of MIX 94.1, and they bounced inside inflatables.



Blue ribbons on every shirt and blue tongues in every mouth. Back from left are: Megan Summers, Aubrie Roeser, Alexa Gossett, Jessica Dionne, Jordan Geisberger, Monica O'Neill, Samantha Risaliti, Madeline Stewart. Seated are Isabella Deboer and Giana King.

The new king of cool judges Mix 94.1 Lunch Lady Cook-Off

Move over Steve McQueen, Elvis, and Fonzie. There's a new king of cool in town. With his hair slicked back and his thumbs up, Lake Cable second grader, Joey Fuchs, was the only student on the six-member panel asked to judge the Mix 94.1 Lunch Lady Cook-Off during a live remote from Lake Cable Elementary.



Judge Joey

McLeese of Perry Local made Perry Peanut Butter Bars. David Hiner of Sts. Peter and Paul in Doylestown made Dave's Delight, what he called his heartwarming Johnny Marzetti. Jackson's middle school lunch lady, Charlotte Carpenter, produced our ever-popular Sunshine Bars made with a secret ingredient, burned butter frosting from a recipe that has been used



Behind Kathy Vogel and Rick Elliott are school cooks: David Hiner, Janet McLeese, Emily Mitchell, Charlotte Carpenter, and Julie Miller.

in the district for at least 30 years. The winner, Emily Mitchell of County Juvenile Attention System, brought her Easy Cheesy Enchiladas.

If you'd like to try any of the recipes, log on to: www.mix941.com/pages/5419256, but you better be ready to cook for a crowd because the recipes serve hundreds.

Judging the event were Mix 94.1 personalities Jerry Mac, Kathy Vogel, Rick Elliot, and station engineer David Selby in addition to Jackson assistant superintendent Chris Diloreto, and of course, Joey, who stole the show.



Lake Cable lunch ladies came in early to open their kitchen to the guest cooks. It's no wonder Lake Cable students love their lunch ladies. Just look at them. From left are: Maureen Kennen, Sue Freshly, Janet Stalder, and Heather Watkins.

Lake Cable gets much needed new playground

After years of PTO fundraising events, parents Tracie Bailey, Karen Skeriotis, and Stacey Woolbert lead the charge to replace Lake Cable's old, wooden, splintered, rotting, bug-infested playground equipment with colorful, updated plastic, steel, and fiberglass pieces. Students have a sense of ownership in the project after participating in a walk-a-thon to help raise project funds.



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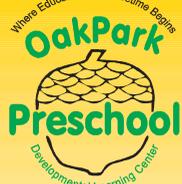
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Sauder students receive art and inspiration from chalk artist

With vibrantly colored chalk in both hands, internationally known artist, Richard Hight brought art, music, and the spoken word together in a fast-paced performance to inspire Sauder students to look for and fulfill their dreams and to live their lives as a work of art. He drew on 6x8' canvases while specially selected pieces of music played in the background. Mr. Hight created two works of art during his performance, a baby polar bear and an American eagle, and those creations are now the property of the school.



Posing in front of the polar bear drawing are: Morgan Casey, Jordan Miller, Christy Skakun, Elena Paxos, Conner Thompson, Joseph Byrer, and Krista Seifert.

His performance included the message that while circumstances may determine the colors a person has to work with, the choices one makes day-to-day are the brush strokes that will define what their masterpiece looks like.

His eagle performance taught students about the characteristics of an eagle which allow him to not only soar above the challenges in life, but to actually use them to his advantage.

Third graders are inspired to compassion for middle east learners

Sauder 3rd graders collected coins for the organization *Pennies for Peace* after reading the book *Listen to the Wind*, based on the best selling *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson. Their pennies will help build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In 1993 the author was descending from his failed attempt to reach the peak of K2. Exhausted and disoriented, he stumbled into an impoverished Pakistani village where he was nursed back to health. While recovering he observed the village's 84 children sitting outdoors, scratching their school lessons in the dirt with sticks. The village was so poor that it could not afford the \$1-a-day salary to hire a teacher. When he left the village, he promised that he would return to build them a school. In an early effort to raise money he wrote letters to 580 celebrities, businessmen, and other prominent Americans. His only reply was a \$100 check from NBC's Tom Brokaw. Selling everything he owned, he still only raised



Class representatives for the Pennies for Peace campaign are Ian Byrne, Rachel Marszalkowski, Maddie Howell, Marissa Macrides, Michael Discenza, Nick Meister, Megan Shoop, Nathan Shield, Brandon Cordi, and Tyler Longworth.

\$2,400. But the momentum changed when a group of elementary school children in River Falls, Wisconsin, donated \$623.40 in pennies. Since then, he's established 78 schools.

"A penny in America doesn't buy much, but there, it can buy a pencil," said

Sauder's Nathan Shield.

"I feel lucky to have my school supplies," added Rachel Marszalkowski.

"We are so lucky to have our school," concluded Maddie Howell, "and it just feels good to help someone."

Learning about lending a helping hand

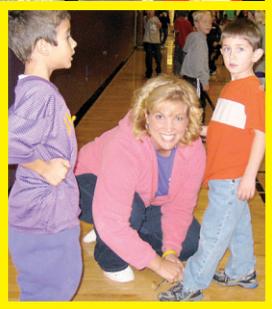
Radio Disney AM 1260 is visiting local area schools around Northeast Ohio talking to students about the importance of volunteering and helping out in their community with support from Marc's. Marc's is also helping local area children in their stores through Marc's *Feed The Children*, a program that will benefit local hunger agencies.

The high-energy presentation had the entire student body dancing, singing, and competing against one another as they learned about the value of working together and lending a helping hand in the community.

At right: In a contest against other classmates Faith Knaus is wrapped in toilet paper by team members Felicity Blood, Toniann Buddenberg, Kaila Mickle, and Max Burkhart.



THE RACE FOR EDUCATION



Strausser students, with help from their PTG, mailed 5,300 letters to grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends, asking for a small donation for their school. To earn the donations, students agreed to walk for one hour at school. The campaign brought in \$26,000 which will be used to place SmartBoards in various Strausser classrooms. SmartBoards are a favorite learning tool of teachers and students, a blackboard-size computer screen that causes a higher level of interactive student engagement. The pure-profit campaign was organized by PTG president Lori Martino and the PTG board. "I'm really proud of our parents and students who made all of this possible, Mrs. Martino said.

Bus evacuation drills performed at all school buildings

Preparation for various emergencies occurs at all of our schools on a regular basis. The bus evacuation drills involve quick and orderly exit from the front and rear doors of the bus. Drivers also train to remove the emergency roof hatch and windows. The entire drill at Strausser Elementary took under 10 minutes.

Substitute bus drivers needed

If you are interested in becoming a driver, please pick up an application at the Administration Office, 7984 Fulton Drive, Massillon, OH 44646. Drivers work 3 to 4 hours per day. Pre-employment requirements include: attendance at a week-long class offered by the state, fingerprinting, a background check, a TB test, a physical, a drug test, training at the Jackson Local bus garage, and passage of the Commercial Driver's License Test. Call Diane Allchin at 330-8042 if you have questions.

In the photo at right, the students Brayden Poling and John Hamilton help Caden Pentello exit the back door while Ben Westfall waits his turn. Overseeing the evacuation is bus driver April Shafer.



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– Grace Tatka, Jackson High School

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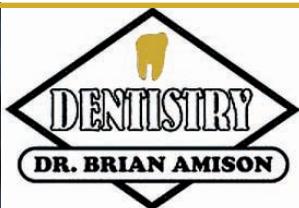
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Fall Varsity Athletics

Girls' Tennis finished 2nd in the Federal League with a 6-1 record. Tennis player Trisha Conlan is the Federal League Tennis Player of the Year. She was the MVP of the Lexington Invitational, sectional champ, and district and state qualifier. At the state level, Trisha made it to the final eight, bringing her 1st Team All Ohio honors.



Tricia Conlan

Boys' Soccer won the Federal League with a 7-0 record. At the time of this writing they were headed into a district semi-final match against Twinsburg. The Boys' Soccer player of the year is Derek Zuniga.

Girls' Soccer won the Federal League with a 7-0 record. At the time of this writing they were headed into a district final match against Hudson. The Girls' Soccer Player of the Year is Brianna DeFelice.

Girls' Volleyball tied for 2nd place in the Federal League with a 10-4 record. At the time of this writing they were headed into a district final match against Wadsworth.

Girls' Cross Country Girls finished 2nd in the Federal League meet and 5th in the district meet, which qualified them to compete in the regional meet.

Boys' Cross Country finished 5th in the Federal League meet.

Boys' Golf finished 2nd in the Federal League with a 6-1 record. Jonathan Clark went to state as an individual and finished 11th. Shooting a 77, Jonathan missed 10th place and 1st Team All State honors by one stroke. He was also named Federal League Player of the Year.



Jonathan Clark

Football finished 0-6 in the Federal League and 0-9 overall with Hoover left to play at the time of this writing.

Girls' Golf won the Federal League title and finished 6th in the state. Angela Codian finished 10th individually, bringing her 1st Team All Ohio honors. In addition, they were the pre-season and post season tournament champs. Coach Teal Harvey was also named Federal League Coach of the Year.



Girls' Golf Team



Jim Scott holds the ball that was given to Jackson by the Stark County High School Football Hall of Fame. It will be permanently displayed at Jackson High School. Chuck Bush holds a photo of Coach Robert Fife who passed away on Aug. 18, 1968

Coach Robert Fife honored by former players and current fans

All eyes were on the Fife Stadium 50 yard line as Jackson fans and former players celebrated Robert Fife's posthumous Induction into the Stark County High School Football Hall of Fame.

Robert Fife was a graduate of McKinley High School in 1930. He went on to play football and lettered three years for Washington and Jefferson, where he graduated in 1934. After graduating, Robert Fife played two years of professional football for the Pittsburgh Americans in 1937 and 1938.

Robert Fife became the head coach of the Jackson Polar Bears in 1945 and served in this position for 17 years through 1961.

His coaching career included only one losing season, which came in his first year. He accumulated an overall record of 111 wins, 41 losses, and 1 tie. His teams posted 53 shutouts in 17 seasons. They scored four or more touchdowns in 81 games. In 1955, his team did not have to punt a single time the entire season. All of Fife's teams played on the Jackson field which was named in his honor in 1975.

To honor Coach Fife, 39 former players returned to their playing field and were presented to the crowd. Graduating in 1963 were Bill Day, Bob Montgomery, and Tim Rummins. 1962 - Bruce Rohrer. 1961 - Rich Frazee, Larry Lutz, and Ted Rohrer.

1960 - Bill Forsyth, and Ned Guest. 1959 - Dave Clatterbuck, Tom Lockard, and Ron Ulm. 1958 - Don Benson, Dick Bernard, Dick Halder, Ralph Forrer, Chuck Jolliff, Alvin Lutz, Nelson Shammo, Ted Stuhldrher, and Jim Ulm. 1957 - Chuck Bush, Chuck Danner, Joe Hoagland, John Scheetz, and Jim Scott. 1956 - Jim Dieble, Dick Scheetz, and Dave Smith. 1954 - Bill Burger. 1953 - Rick Preece. 1952 - Junie Mull and Carl Safreed. 1951 - Tom Albrecht, John Mauer, Wally Nist, and Jim Zahler. 1949 - Tom Dieble. 1948, Bill Tschantz and Bill Wise.

Superintendent Cheryl Haschak received the award for Coach Fife at an induction ceremony held July 17 at Skyland Pines.

Violinist wins four summer contests

JHS senior, Ethan Ash, recently won 3rd place at the Ohio State Fiddling Contest in the 13-18 age division. The contest was held in Nelsonville, Ohio in August. He also won 2nd place in the open class (ages 18-54) at the Lorain County Fair on Saturday, Aug. 29, which was also his 18th birthday. He placed 2nd at the Lorain County Fair in the open class (18-54 age group), and 1st at the Ashland County Fair in the open class (18-60 age group).



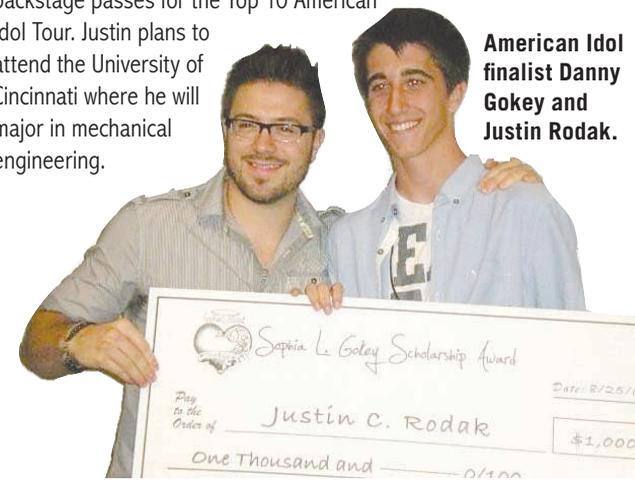
Irish dancer competes abroad

A sophomore in the Jackson School for the Arts and a championship dancer with the O'Hare School of Irish Dance, Sierra Grahovac, has qualified to compete in the All-Ireland Irish Dance Championships to be held in Killarney, Ireland in February. This 11-year dancer has competed in Irish dance competitions since age four. Practicing 5 to 6 days per week, in addition to her demanding school schedule, Sierra also represented the O'Hare School at the Great Britain Irish Dance Championships in West Sussex, England in October.



students were the first recipients of this new scholarship. Justin was treated to lunch and dinner with Danny and was given tickets and backstage passes for the Top 10 American Idol Tour. Justin plans to attend the University of Cincinnati where he will major in mechanical engineering.

American Idol finalist Danny Gokey and Justin Rodak.



Player of the Year - Golf is her game

Landrie Grace keeps coming out on top. She recently won the US Kids Golf Tour at Shady Hollow with a score of 38. Due to rain, only 9 holes were counted instead of the 18 intended). She also won the 2009 Player of the Year for US Kids of Canton in the 13-year-old girls category, Player of the Year 2009 for the US Kids of Cleveland, and Player of the Year 2009 for the PGA Kenny Novak Tour. In recent tournaments Landrie has logged 18 first place wins, 2 second place, 3 third place, and 2 fourth place.



JHS student wins Gokey scholarship

Justin Rodak received the Sophia Gokey Heart Foundation Scholarship, which was started by her husband, American Idol top 10 winner, Danny Gokey to honor her memory and to help students who have faced significant roadblocks on the path to their dreams. She passed away from a congenital heart defect which is how Justin's father, Rick Rodak, had passed away on May 26, 2008. Justin traveled to Columbus on August 25 to receive the scholarship from Danny. Justin and two other

Young ambassador broadens horizons

Since 1956, People to People has been dedicated to promoting world peace and cultural understanding through meaningful personal interactions. This year, JMMS 8th grader Sam Williams traveled to France, Italy, and Greece with the group and came back a changed young man. Taking over 700 photos, Sam gained a realization that the photos in his social studies books really exist in countries across the world, which he wants to see more of. He met so many people that he said the experience has made him less shy.



Matthew J. Thiel, DDS



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Lady Bears spike one for breast cancer

The JHS Varsity Girls' Volleyball Team faced visiting league rivals, the GlenOak Golden Eagles, to raise research funds for breast cancer in the third annual **Volley for the Cure** state-wide campaign.

The match went five games with the bears pulling out a victory and raising over \$6,000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Before the match, players honored 10 breast cancer survivors by escorting them to center court to be introduced and presented with pink carnations. Survivorship ranged from 23 years to two weeks. At the net, Glen Oak's varsity players greeted the survivors with handshakes and hugs while the crowd roared its deafening support.

"It was very emotional for the players as



The Jackson varsity volleyball players with breast cancer survivors at the event that netted more than \$6,000 for the cure.

well as the survivors, and it was awesome," said event organizer and survivor Jane Zito.

Helping Mrs. Zito accomplish the fundraising feat in three short weeks were: Jean Furbay, Janet Douglas, Kelly Siskovich, Teri Lentz, Annette McCann, Jeannine Thomas, Diana Seifert, and Kim Bryan.

"Teachers, the athletic office, Polar Bear Backers, Jackson cheerleaders, coaches, players, and parents from the high school and middle school all worked together

to pull this event off in three weeks. The community really supported us with donations of gift cards and items for raffle, and friends and family members of the players really came through with sponsorship dollars," Mrs. Zito added.

Coaches Jeff Walck, Katie Morris, Erin Kracker, and Courtney Adelman did their part to help satisfy the Jackson crowd with a win after five matches.

"What better way to top off a great event than with a win," Mrs. Zito concluded.



Jackson Local staff listen to a presentation on one-tank "relaxation" trips, presented by Massillon AAA Auto Club.

Teachers encouraged to be well, stay well

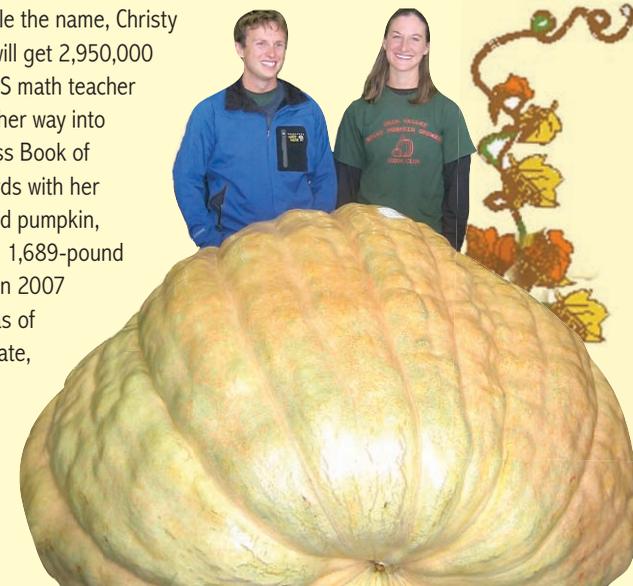
At a staff development day held at the high school prior to the start of the school year, Jackson teachers became the students, learning about various areas of wellness. The staff was introduced to the new weight/fitness rooms established in both the middle school and high school for student/staff use through funds from the Carol M. White Physical Education Promotion Grant which Jackson has been implementing over the past two years. They also attended sessions on financial, physical, emotional, nutritional, and professional wellness.

JHS teacher breaks Guinness world record

If you google the name, Christy Harp, you will get 2,950,000 hits. The JHS math teacher has grown her way into the Guinness Book of World records with her 1,725 pound pumpkin, topping the 1,689-pound record set in 2007 by Joe Jutras of North Scituate, R.I. Christy has been growing pumpkins since 8th grade, mastering the art of

Christy and husband Nick with Christy's huge accomplishment.

compost, coffee grounds, cow manure, and water — lots and lots of each. In July, Christy could hold the prize-winner in her hand, but before long, it was packing on 33 pounds per day. She currently has 900 requests for the 300 seeds that were inside the beast. The first 100 will go to the Ohio Valley Giant Pumpkin Growers, some of which will be available to the public via the club's fundraising seed auction planned for 8 p.m. Nov. 28 and 29 on the club Web site at www.ovggp.com. The second 100 will go to other world class growers, and the third 100 will stay with Christy for personal and scientific use. She wants everyone to know that any seed with good genetics can become a record-breaker in the hands of a skilled grower. She knows of a man who grew a 1,500 pounder with a seed from a 100 pound pumpkin. The Harps hope to have the pumpkin professionally carved and placed on local display.



Last season, Christy found a creative use for one of her giant pumpkins.



One Friday Night in the Fall at Fife

Because the camera sees differently than the human eye, two separate photos, taken with different settings, were combined to give you a sense of what the crowd saw over Fife Stadium one September Friday night before a game.

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