

Interesting Fact about Martin Luther King Jr.:

While Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated in observance of his birthday, we celebrate it on the third Monday in January, where King was born on January 15th, 1929.

Your place for JMHS News

THE JAGUAR Journal

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Email us at: jaguarjournal@jacksonsd.org

D- Chat

By Nick Del'lomo



I recently had the pleasure to sit down with our principal, Mr. DiEugenio, and discuss some of the new happenings within JMHS. We had a very informative meeting about the current state of our school and

what to expect in the near future. Our topics of discussion ranged from the success of our athletic programs, to the state-wide budget cuts, and also to the possibility of a different type of schedule next year; all of which affect everybody in the school in some type of manner. Here are some highlights from our interview:

How are these educational budget cuts going to affect our school and where are we going to cover the monetary losses?

We are currently in the 4th year of these cuts called the S-2 budget cuts and Jackson is in the cross-hairs of them. This year alone we have projected a loss of about 3 million dollars. Administration is finding ways to cover these cuts without detracting from the education of our students. Currently, throughout the district, it seems as though when a teacher retires, or

leaves their position for any such reason, their job will not be replaced. An example of this can be seen as Mr. Wilson, who was loved here last year as he was a long-time math teacher, retired, his position was not replaced. So we are able to absorb this in the class sizes and what this does is it makes class sizes a little bigger. As we stand currently, the average class size around here has been around 24, this year it is around 26. Now for next year, that means we may see class sizes increase yet again to 28.

Another area that administration is seeking to absorb these harsh cuts is that of facility projects. Unfortunately, these cuts are going to prevent us from repaving the senior parking lot and upgrading our tennis courts and track, all of which very much need the work. On the bright side of things, when money was good, I was able to take care of other much needed projects like the renovation of the weight-room, gym floors, bleachers, and even a brand new girls locker room; but when money becomes tight certain things take priority. One of those priorities for me was maintaining our supply line, meaning reserving the same amount budget from the year prior for this year in regard for the supplies that get allotted to students. And good news, I was able to do that, so that means we are going to have enough chromebooks for students, and projectors in every room. Additionally, in regard to sports and extracurriculars,

I definitely don't want to work on rumors, however we've had pay-to-play for many years and I cannot guarantee that it will remain at \$50 ...and we can leave it at that.

I would like to address rumors of a study-hall or common period being introduced to our schedule next year, are there any official updates or explanations on that?

Well for the past year there has been a committee put together to investigate new methods and/or alterations we can make to the schedule to best benefit our students or where we can get a common study time for students within the school day itself. An idea that many other neighboring districts such as Freehold, Brick, and Wall have implemented is that of a common period for lunch. For instance, at Wall Township, their students, all 1400 of them, get lunch at the same time. They will spread out throughout the building in places like the auditorium and the gym and eat their lunch with their friends. Another benefit of this system is that students are able to go to their teachers for extra help during school hours and not have to stay after. Again, all of this is still in an investigative process and there is absolutely no official decision on this so it's nothing that is imminent to worry about.

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Sports Breakdown

By Kristina Donza

Jackson Memorial High School has always been known for its excellence and success in athletics. From state titles to conference championships to superstar athletes, the athletics within this school are one of the best by far in the state. The coaching staffs and players within every program share a common goal to succeed and be the best they can be no matter what it takes. As the 2019 fall season has ended and the 2019-2020 winter season is in the middle of competition, there are a lot of expectations for these athletes and their programs. Here is a recap of some of the sports teams in the fall and how this winter season is going so far...

Fall Sports



Cheerleading:

"After coming off a successful football season our team has been working hard and it's beginning to pay off as we just received our bid to take on Nationals in Orlando, Florida. As of now our short term goals are to keep our team healthy and strong and have a great basketball season!"-Senior Heather Buckholz

Boys Cross Country:

"Our season opener at Cherokee proved that hard work shows as our top 5 runners made the all time Cherokee challenge list. The next few meets shaped our team well as our sophomores rose up right behind the seniors and quickly formed the varsity and JV team. Our A-South Conference meet didn't go as predicted, finishing at 3rd, stopping our momentum. However, the Ocean County Championship was a successful turnaround as our boys finished 2nd in both varsity and JV, following a top 10 finish in shore conference teams. At sectionals we placed better than most years, but couldn't get through to groups, ending another fantastic season. Our big group of seniors will graduate this year, leaving a big hole to be filled by the young but very passionate and skilled group of runners who work day in and out to be greater."-Senior Jackson Carrara



Field Hockey:

"Jags field hockey finished the season 12-6-1 with 10 of their wins being shut outs. The Jags

had some great victories, to include defeating Freehold Township 3-0 in their season opener and beating Toms River North 2-0 at home. They also made it to the quarterfinal of the Shore Conference Tournament for the first time in years, after pulling a huge upset against Red Bank Catholic in the quarterfinals. The team will be graduating 12 seniors this year and will have a great pair of shoes to fill." -Senior Claudia DiStaso



Football:

"The season started out rough at 1-2. Many people doubted us as we played a terrible game against Wal. However, after big wins against SJV and Brick, the season quickly turned around. We won out the rest of the regular season, which included a big game against Rumson Fair-Haven. The playoffs started off with a 20-0 victory over Morrestown. We won our semifinal game in a thriller over Toms River East 27-21. Regardless, the season was amazing and set a new standard at JMHS football. The future is bright, and I can't wait to see how they perform next season"- Senior Lonnie Cebulski

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Plagiarism: A Student Editorial

My phone buzzed. I was expecting the typical, “Hey how are you?” text from a friend, but instead, I was being asked for homework answers once again. I was a sophomore in high school and I started to get tired of people always asking for homework and test answers. Morally, I knew it was wrong to cater to their needs, but not helping others get through this week’s workload can put you on their high school hit list. The standard “Plagiarism is a Crime” motto that my school preaches always resonated through my mind whenever I saw someone passing classwork answers around the room. I tried to withdraw myself from these situations by ignoring phone calls or messages from people who only speak to me to get my homework answers. However, I am always willing to lend a helping hand when someone is struggling in a class. There have been times where I have spent hours on a Facetime call trying to explain a calculus problem to a friend. Yet, I have always had a personal dilemma with the concept of cheating and stealing work from others.

In the cutthroat world of high school, everyone is trying to figure out a way to pass a class by doing the least amount of work as pos-

sible. Sometimes the way to do that includes the unethical act of cheating. Me, the determined and hardworking student I am, never thought it as morally right to ask others for answers so I never did. Unfortunately, not everyone feels the same way.

The infamous question of can I borrow your homework has haunted my dreams for way too long and I began to run out of ideas of curt ways to get out of these uncomfortable situations. I was too busy with sports practices, an internship, and doing my work to focus on how someone else is going to do theirs. As the years of high school have progressed, I have learned to speak my truth. I had gotten tired of telling others whether it was A, B, or C and stood up for what I believed was right. I knew I could not walk through life with people taking advantage of me like they were so I decided to start politely denying their requests and staying true to what I believed was right.

I understand that not everyone can stand up for what they believe in, so I decided to become a voice for those who are too shy and scared to say no to the people abusing their kindness. I have been in contact with the New

Jersey Board of Education and have expressed my concern about the epidemic of cheating that is sweeping schools all over the nation. We have discussed new ways to incorporate websites such as Turnitin.com so that every student gets rewarded for the work they have done and not the work they stole. Social media has weakened the authenticity of students’ work and I want to stop the bullying of people being pressed to give answers because they are afraid of letting their classmates down or being labeled as a ‘buzzkill who can’t help someone out.’

I admire the type of people who have always been so brave to say no to the dreaded question. Certain tasks like rejecting a request might sound simple, but it takes a lot of confidence to be able to stick up for your beliefs. I am proud that I gained this confidence and can speak for others who are still fighting for it. I learned that saying no doesn’t mean that you’re a bad person. I learned how to respect myself, the value of the time and effort I put into my work, and not letting others take advantage of my kindhearted personality just to make their life easier.

Jackson Ski Club

By Lena Smith

As the motto of the Jackson Ski Club says; “Head in the clouds, feet in the powder.” This season, the Jackson Ski Club kicked off their year with a foggy trip to Jack Frost Mountain on January 4th. Although the conditions were a little warm, it was a successful first trip! Each student participated in their mandatory first trip lesson whether they had skied for over a decade, or just started that day. You need no experience to join Ski Club, and for each day trip you have the option for an extra lesson, rentals for helmets and equipment (skis or snowboard), or just a lift ticket!

The Ski Club’s second trip to Montage Mountain on January 11th was quite successful as well. The weather was not quite as foggy as the Jack Frost trip, and it was slightly cooler with a beautiful mountain breeze. This trip was for advanced 8th grade and high school students only, as the mountain is mostly harder terrain. Montage Mountain is known to be home to “the

second steepest trail in the East,” a trail named White Lightning. (See picture)

Future day trips for the Jackson Ski Club include Elk Mountain on January 25th, Blue Mountain on February 8th, and Windham Mountain on February 22nd. Each year, there is a big overnight trip for high school students only, and this year it is from March 6th (Friday) to March 8th (Sunday) at Stratton Mountain, Vermont.

The Jackson Ski Club consists of students, advisors, and chaperones from Goetz, Liberty, and Memorial. The advisors are Mrs. Totin from JMHS, Mrs. Callahan from Goetz, and Mr. Noble from JLHS. The chaperones for the Jack Frost and the Montage trips were Mr. Antonelli and Mrs. Pratt from Memorial, Mrs. Tracz and Mrs. Hopko from Liberty, Mr. Ulrich, Mr. Holzhauser, and Mr. Rotunno from Goetz.

“Think snow!”



Pictured above: “White Lightning group”: (From left to right) Lena, Mano, Brandi, Troy, Maceo, and Isabella after a run down White Lightning.; The Montage Mountain trail map.



Pictured left: View from the top of the double black diamond called Smoke.

Pictured Right: Although some thin and icy spots, the terrain was well kept. The top of Montage Mountain also provides a beautiful view.



Pictured left: “Although a little warm and foggy, the small Jack Frost mountain was a perfect place to start the season.”

Embrace Fear, Failure, and Futility

By Dakota J. Calcaterra

One of the biggest misconceptions in life is that optimism is a rule to be followed. Always hope and believe in the best, we’re told at a young age. The idea of optimism is so ingrained into our society that we have nearly made it into a way of life. The issue with that outlook on living is simple; the best never happens. Sure, it’s better that the Allies won WWII, but wouldn’t it have been better if the war, the Holocaust, the rise of fascism, and, crucially, the previous World War didn’t happen in the first place? A best case scenario isn’t always as clear as it seems, as it requires a worst case scenario all the same. Because of that, I’m here to make the case for a measured, but sincere, pessimism.

The question most used to define the divide of optimism and pessimism has been, for decades, “Is the glass half empty or half full?” It is from this question that many draw their own

feelings towards the world. Optimism, in many cases, is valued, it is seen as a positive trait, one that makes a person stronger and more resilient, but there is a key flaw to it, and that is in its unrealistic expectations. We do not live in what Leibniz called “the best of all possible worlds” we live in merely a world, one with peace, happiness, and innocence, and simultaneously dominated by war, sadness, and cynicism all the same. To be an optimist is to turn a blind eye to the ills of society and replace them in the common consciousness with a hopeful thought, a dangerous thing to make a habit of, as it can lead to only suffering on a greater scale.

To be a pessimist, on the other hand, is to acknowledge society’s faults, and recognize that as humans, as conscious, semi-intelligent beings, we are without hope of being perfect, as perfection is unattainable. In order to grow,

an issue to resolve needs to be identified. Pessimism is the understanding that happy ignorance is not preferable to a tortured state of enlightenment, and, in fact, is not happiness at all. The best will not always happen, and, in most cases, would be impossible. Pessimism, contrary to popular belief, contributes to happiness. Unlike others who expect so much for themselves, who believe that everything will be ok, we have our expectations properly adjusted to be parallel with reality, and we will not be surprised or hurt when life zigs or zags.

As I’ve said, pessimism is a more correct way of life. It stresses honesty with oneself and others, and peace with the world as it naturally acts, not as we would like it to. There is always something to improve, and to think otherwise would be disastrous. That is why you should be a pessimist.

Feeling Nostalgic

By Taylor Coon

As the century comes to a close and we roll into 2020, let's take a moment to appreciate how far we've come in this decade. If you were a kid in the early 2000s, chances are you've heard of or even had Club Penguin, Webkinz, Beyblades, Zoopals, Wii games, a DS, an iPod, Smencils, a Tamagotchi, iSpy books and lots more.

Having a childhood in the 2000s was one of this generation's most memorable experiences, no matter how old you get, the nostalgia will always be with you. As we're getting older, most of these trends are sailing out the window and making way for the new generations of kids who won't get to understand how important something as simple as watching *iCarly* on your big boxy TV at home or waking up to the George Lopez theme song at 3 in the morning.

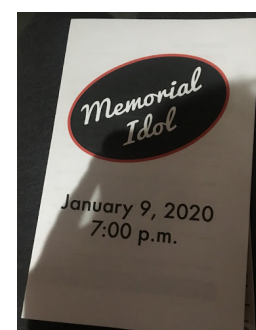
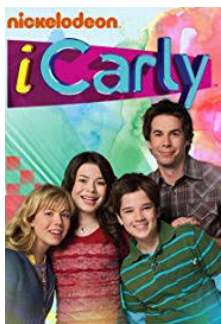
If you grew up at the peak of all these things I've listed, take a moment to just think back to your childhood and early years in school; I remember watching *SpongeBob* on the TV before going to elementary school trading Pokémon cards and Sillybandz in recess, learning about fractions, then going home to watch *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody* and eating frosted animal cookies. Honestly, the early 2000s were a simpler time and it's really fun to see how far technology has come and how much kids experiences are changing based on what shows are airing or what things they're exposed to.

Now, if you didn't get to be a part of all these amazing things I've mentioned, then I hope your childhood was as awesome as mine. And hey, nothing ever disappears so why not live like a 2000s kid? Nobody's stopping you.

Memorial Idol

By Victoria Hogg

Earlier this week, I went to Memorial Idol to see what it was all about. Once I got my ticket I got a slip of paper along with it, asking who we wanted to vote for. I thought it was cool, since it contributed to the overall idea of the actual T.V. show, *American Idol*. The show was on a Thursday, which gave students a break from studying and the stress that comes from school. Popular songs were sung, such as *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*, by Marvin Gaye, and *Almost Is Never Enough*, by Ariana Grande. All the students did an amazing job, and overall it was a fun and enjoyable experience for everyone. Congratulations to everyone who sang and the winner Jayden Comello.



Dear Jade

Dear Jade,
I have felt so defeated lately and honestly I don't know what to do. I just feel like everything is going against me right now and there's no support in my life? Do you have any advice on anything that could help me?

From- Anonymous

I have been feeling the same way. Junior year has been a lot with SAT prep, sports, managing grades and managing to have a social life. These last few months have been a challenge and I don't know how I have been coping with it lately. It has been a struggle to focus and to keep my mind in check. But some days you just need a *you* day. A day where you can be yourself and be intune with your thoughts. Taking time for yourself is key because if you don't you will literally drive yourself insane. Just take some time for you. Do the things you want to do, and don't worry about the rest of the world, because it will truly help you in the long run.

Sincerely,
Jade

Views From C Wing Reflections

The best gift I have ever given to someone is a remote model car. I gave this gift to my sister for Christmas. My sister was happy and she cried when she opened it. My sister really wanted the car. I felt excited because I knew I would make her happy. Sometimes giving gifts is better than receiving them.

The best gift I ever received was a sweater. The sweater was black and comfortable. I received this sweater from Ms. Marvin, Ms. Dillon, Ms. Sheeran, Mr. Cozart and Mr. Keschecki. This gift is special because the teachers love me.

The gift I would give the world is to stop violence. The world would be a better place to live. I believe it would make everyone happy. We need more love in this world. I think we need more happiness.

- CJ Jimenez Ovalle

The best gift I have given someone was a pair of gloves. I gave them to my mom for Christmas. This was an important gift because my mom's hands were cold and she needed something to keep them warm. This gift was very special because it made my mom happy and it made me feel good to make her so happy.

The best gift I received was a stuffed animal. It was a white bear that I keep in my room. This was a very special present because it was from my mother and I love everything she does for me.

- Ciro Panella

The best gift I gave my mom was a necklace that says "I Love You To the Moon and Back." When I gave it to her she started to cry. It made me happy to see her cry with joy.

The best gift I received was my phone. This is very important to me because I can look things up and watch youtube. Another gift I received was a karaoke player. My mom and dad gave it to me so I can sing. It is special because I can sing along with the song. I can also make my own CD.

If I could give one gift to the world it would be a hug. When people are sad they need a hug to make them feel better. Hugs are the best gifts.

- Taylor Mitchell

The best gift I have ever given to someone was for my brother Diego. He is in the Marines. I sent my brother a wallet for his birthday and I put money in it for an extra surprise. He really like it and told me he loved me. This made me feel so good.

The best gift I ever received was a blue, sparkly dress. My mom gave me the dress for my birthday. This gift is special to me because I feel beautiful when I wear it.

If I could give a gift to the whole world, it would be love. The world needs this because everyone deserves to be loved. The world would be a happier place with more hugs and kisses.

- Juliana Vega

The best gift I have ever given was a special chocolate cake. I decorated the cake with funfetti frosting, and crumbled Oreo cookies. I gave this to my dad for his birthday. My dad was extremely happy that I made this special cake for him. He ate a piece of cake and said it was delicious.

The best gift I received was from my father. He bought me a TV. I have it downstairs in the basement. I can watch all the shows that I like.

The one gift I would give the world would be peace. There would be no wars. People would get along with each other.

- Dene Smith

The best gift I could give to the world is peace and love. Caring for people is important. Everyone will let go of the hate. The arguments and even fighting would stop. The world needs to learn how to get along with each other. People could show their care for their children so that they can be happy and they won't cry.

- Adam D'Souza

The gift I would give to the world is spreading kindness because we want it to make the world better. It would change people by making them happy. We need kindness in the world today because there is too much bullying and violence.

- Christopher Owens

The best gift I have ever given to someone was a beautiful picture of the beach that I made. I gave this gift to my mom and dad. The picture had beautiful colors of the sky and water. My parents were so happy. They love my picture and decided to hand it up in the living room.

The best gift I ever got was from my grandmother. She bought me a blue dress that had sparkles on it. I wore the dress to a house party. I felt very pretty in the beautiful dress. I did the salsa at the party.

If I could give a gift to the world it would be rice. All the people would have food to eat. Then, everyone would be happy.

- Emily Kuilan

The best gift I have received was my mom. She makes Christmas turkey. She is very pretty. I love my mom.

I would give peace to the world because it's a freedom.

- Michael Fries

The best gift I have ever received was my iPad. It is a full sized white iPad. It feels smooth when I touch it. It was a gift from my grandparents. I wanted it because I can play games on it. I am lucky that my grandparents are so good to me.

If I could give one gift to the whole world it would be a positive attitude. I think the world needs this gift because if we all had a positive attitude, we might be happier and we would all get along with each other.

- Holden Rieger

Sports Breakdown

Continued from page one.

Gymnastics:

“For the 2019 High School Gymnastics Season, the team endeavored many different challenges. We had welcomed our new coach, along with 5 new freshman. This left the team with only underclassmen. We were able to have multiple bonding experiences due to our pasta parties and the many bus rides taken to other high schools. The team became very close, which is going to help us to have more of a support system for next year. There were two girls who qualified to Shore Conference and Sectionals: Avelina Durring and Cailee McGinness. Overall, the team was able to have some winnings in the end, but also had multiple losses. This season has taught us the importance of working together and preparing for future years, while becoming a family.” - Sophomore Meghan Barna

Boys Soccer:

“We came in with not many expectations and we were able to capture A-South. We had a memorable season and we were able to come together as a team and we now have friendships that will last a lifetime. As a team we would have wanted more but fell short of our goal.” - Senior Ronny Bantang

Girls Soccer:

“Coming into this season, many of us were concerned about having a slow start due to the fact that we were going to have a new coach and we had lost some of the key players to last years season. But, we started getting at it early in the summer with many workouts and practices that would only help us in the beginning of the season and, we did. Our first scrimmage against Middletown South was a big win for us. We had a lot of confidence after this game and we knew that they were gonna be one of the best teams in the state this year. Now that we were 5-0 and leading the shore conference, we now had to play manalapan who we knew would be a tough competition. After winning that game we were 6-0 and as Natalie said, we could ALL say we were feeling pretty on top of the world. A few games later we then played Hunterdon Central and they were going to be the best team we played all season, and with everyone’s hard work, we were their first loss all season and we stayed undefeated. This season has brought so many girls closer together and we all became such good friends. Everyone knew their roll on the team and executed it perfectly. After being 13-0, we had some tough upsets and we’re out first round of shore conference and states. Although this is heartbreaking, this was one of the best seasons a team could of had. We are nothing but proud of each other and we are also lifelong friends”-Senior Jess Smink

Tennis Girls:

“The Lady Jags Tennis team had a good run this 2019 season. Our senior, Kaitlyn O’Connor finished off with a winning record. Second singles, Hannah O’Connor, took the Ocean County 1st Place title this year.” - Senior Kaitlyn O’Connor

Volleyball Girls:

The past volleyball season was a challenge not only for myself, but for my team as a whole.

Losing a trained professional Coach led to obstacles we needed to hurdle over. We had to embrace the opportunities the newly appointed Coach took on, as we knew she was volunteering to assist us and stepped up, when no one else would. We did appreciate her mentorship, motivation and encouragement but we were missing out on the technique and skill improvement many of us yearned for. The lack of direction caused many flaws between the teammates, often leading to a disconnection in cohesion as a team. However, we pulled through when we needed to because we all were on that court for one reason- the love for volleyball. The biggest take away from the season was to stay true to playing the sport we had a passion for. We didn’t win every match (3-13), but we learned to be flexible and patient. We embraced our wins when they occurred and never lost hope of success. This volleyball season made me stronger, not just physically but mentally as well. We were put on a rocky ship, but we sailed through.” - Sophomore Destiny Phillips

Winter Sports

Girls Basketball:

“The Lady Jags basketball program has been off to a great start this season. We won our home opener against Brick Township 63-23, but lost to a great Paul IV team in a Christmas tournament. However, competing against a team like that built our strength and attitude to get us rolling. After that we were on a 3 game winning streak, playing hard and blowing past teams. Currently we are 7-2, and 4-0 in conference play. We have a great group of girls that are all “locked in” and ready to go at any point for any practice or game. The senior class is ready to win an A-South title and a state sectional this year and won’t stop working hard till we fulfill that dream. There has been a lot of doubt on what we can achieve from the outside world and critics but we are ready to make a statement and show who the Lady Jags basketball program is made of. This team is so cohesive and I cannot wait to see what the rest of the season holds for this program.” - Senior Kristina Donza

Boys Basketball:

“The first game of the season was an away game at Brick township. This game always produces a hostile environment and almost never ends up in a win for us. Against all odds, however, we ended up winning the game by a few points and it was at this point we knew we had a strong core of guys to do something great this year. We entered the Christmas classic WOBM tournament over break and came out of the tournament 4-1, which put us to an advantageous start and motivated us to work harder. We are now currently 7-3 and really hoping to make some statements about our team as we head into the tougher part of our schedule and face big conference competition. Our school’s basketball team hasn’t been anything remarkable in years, and this year we have a real chance of changing that reputation and setting up a future of success for the program. We have the right set of guys to go somewhere this season, we have a great coach who always keeps us in check, and I think if we focus, learn from our mistakes, and work hard everyday we can shock a lot of people this

year.” - Senior Jake Rasinski

Boys Swimming:

“The season didn’t start off as great as we had hoped it would but we have had a lot of underclassman step up and fill the spots of the seniors that graduated from last season. I believe we have the pieces to win and succeed this season but right now we are more in a rebuilding phase due to the loss of 13 seniors. However, within the next few years, the boys swimming program is going to be a force to be reckoned with.”

Track Girls:

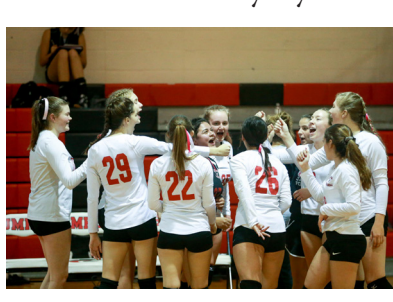
“This year we had our first full team meet just before Christmas and got a good baseline for times to set attainable goals. Our throwers are participating in the Rebel Shot meet series and are improving every meet as well. It’s a new adjustment without last year’s seniors and with many newcomers, but we are working hard to be just as good if not better than we were last year. We have a positive environment in all of our specialized groups with the help of our senior leaders going into the new season and can’t wait to see how the season plays out.” - Senior Steph Uveges

Boys Wrestling:

“The season started out slow with a loss from Westfield that we knew we should’ve won. But after beating Cherokee and Monroe we opened our eyes and knew the season is here. The team has been training really hard and we have a good group of guys to do great things this season. Our seniors are working for an A-South championship and to win state sectionals as we should’ve done last season. We’re learning as a team and growing match after match to achieve team goals and individual goals. Our team always peaks at the right time and we should never be underestimated, we will thrive through the season and reach for our goals. As well as achieving individual goals in the postseason where we want state champs and state placers to get our names on the wall with Jaguar legends. We have a lot going for us this season and I’m excited to see how the hard work plays out.” - Senior Kyle Epperly

Girls Wrestling:

“Jackson has always had a great wrestling reputation. With the addition of girls wrestling we have only enhanced that reputation. With being the first ever undefeated girls team in the state of New Jersey we wanted to come into the new season with the intention of making sure that it stayed that way. Every girl since day 1 has been dedicated to getting better everyday. From encouraging others during practice to screaming on the side of the mat during matches. Our coaches as well are 100 percent dedicated to making sure that we are pushing ourselves by putting on more weight if they see lifts are getting easy and also working with each of us individually to make sure we can succeed. With already defeating our first opponents all the girls are excited to go out there and keep doing it for the rest of the season.” - Senior Ally Mayer



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WOBM
SENIOR OF THE MONTH
MACKENZIE DAKIN

D-Chat

Continued from page one

On the sports side of things, would you like to give an update on the status of our sports teams this season?

Well our football team had made it to the semi-finals this past season, a remarkable job by them. Our girls basketball is having an unbelievable year yet far. They are beating everybody. We have had many students commit to various great schools, 10 or 11 of them I believe. Kristina Donza, who will be attending Navy, is having a fantastic year and she is actually leading several scoring categories throughout the conference this season, a great feat by her. Girls wrestling is doing really well and they are actually having their first dual-meet season. The 4x4 indoor track team has broken several school records. I am really looking forward to the spring musical coming up in a few months, the fall one was great and we have many of the same actors

Jackson Memorial Hockey Team

By Haylie Hinds



On Sunday, December 8th the Jackson Memorial hockey team played the Indian Hills hockey team up in Wayne, New Jersey. The Jags lost a whopping 6-0 but they kept up with the team and played hard with a couple of their players down. Although the game did not end well score wise, the hockey team played their butts off and did not stop working hard and fighting for the puck.

Their hard working effort finally paid off on Saturday, December 14th, when they beat Freehold Township 8-0. Luke Satkowski and Sean Fountain and George Hinds with their amazing performance. Sean Fountain also had a great game as he scored his first varsity goal of the season. The overall game was a great success and there are many more to come.

The offense didn't do all the work, the defense shined bright as they limited Freehold Township to seven shots and no goals. The goalie, William Torres did an astonishing job as he had his first shutout.

Friday, December 20th the hockey team truly had a great game as they won to Wall Township. George Hinds, Luke Satkowski, Josh Shepetofsky, and Ayden Georgiano had the amazing goals of the game. William Torres had an awesome game as well with forty three saves. The hockey team really out did themselves after losing and not losing hope.

After interviewing some of the players, they told me how important it was for them to get the win in a divisional game contest. I asked George Hinds how he thought the season would play out and he said, "I hope we have a strong season and make it to playoffs" which the team really started to show after they lost and started to think of what they could have done better. William Torres also had a lot to say as he said they needed to communicate on the ice and he thought the teams they played against were very equal and had more good chances to shoot than some of the scores showed.

The hockey team is sure impressing everyone with their winning streak, they are not losing hope and fighting for what they want.

and performers coming back to entertain yet again. Overall a great season with much more still to come.

So I understand that we are doing battle of the classes this year, can we have an update on that?

Yes, this is very exciting! I would like to give full credit of this to Shane Neilen, president of the Senior Class; he came into my office with a couple other students and presented the idea, I told him to find out how Liberty does it and make sure nobody gets hurt, and it took off from there. Everything is all set for Battle of the Classes and I am very much looking forward to it!

Mr. DiEugenio also made sure to give a shout-out to all of the student leadership within JMHS and commend them for the excellent

Happy New Laws, New Jersey

Minimum Wage Increase:

The New Jersey minimum wage went from \$10 to \$11 per hour on 1/1/20. It will continue to go up one dollar per hour every January 1st until 2024, when it reaches \$15 per hour. Governor Phil Murphy claims that "New Jerseyans working full-time deserve fair, livable wages." But many part time workers' employers are already paying the full \$11 per hour, even for employees under the age of 18.

For seasonal workers (which includes some high school students working summer jobs, for instance), the minimum wage increased from \$8.85 an hour to \$10.30 an hour. And restaurant workers' pay went from \$2.63 an hour to \$3.13 an hour, plus tips. (The hourly wage plus tips is supposed to equal the minimum wage.)

New Jersey's LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum Law:

On January 31, 2019, Governor Phil Murphy signed Assembly Bill 1335, the LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum Bill, into law. This made New Jersey the second state in the nation to require schools to teach about the struggles and triumphs of the LGBTQ community. New Jersey is the first state to have an interdisciplinary approach. The LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum Bill requires boards of education to include instruction and adopt instructional materials that accurately portray the political, economic, and social contributions of LGBTQ individuals. Public schools in New Jersey must align their materials and instruction to this bill across all content areas for middle school and high school-age students by the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Plastic Bag Reduction:

Some New Jersey communities have voted to ban the use of plastic bags in their stores in an effort to cut down on the environmental danger they present. Most stores will offer paper or cloth alternatives for a 5 or 10 cent fee per bag, hoping that customers will choose to reuse the bags rather than to pay the fee each time. While this ban is currently in effect mostly in Northern New Jersey, it's just a matter of time before it happens in the rest of the state, too.

More new laws already passed or being considered in 2020:

The expanded family leave act; the right to die law; sexual abuse laws; drivers license program that would expand access to undocumented immigrants; hair diversity non-discrimination; marijuana legalization; the elimination of religious or "personal beliefs" as a valid exemption to vaccination.

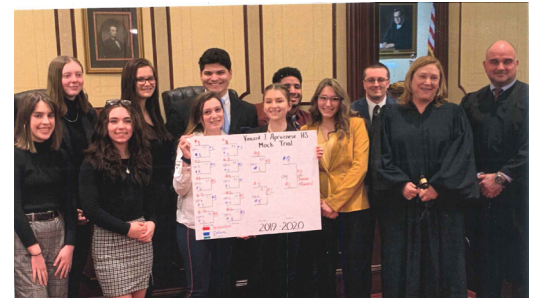
job they have done so far this year in regards to organizing and executing new JMHS traditions. Great Job to all!

Lastly, our school is moving quickly towards AP testing, SATs, Finals, Proms and a very exciting spring season. Mr. DiEugenio wanted to be sure to remind students that time management will become the most important thing over the next few months. Procrastination is not an option and he reminded us to stay ahead of our work and to prepare for these big tests coming up in May and start doing so now, don't wait.

All in all, our meeting was very informational and Mr. DiEugenio shared some great news and advice with all of our students. Again, I would like to thank him for generously donating 20 minutes out of his busy schedule to talk with me. And that is it for the D-chat this edition! Good luck and see you soon Jags!

A Mock Trial Victory

By Mr. Fantasia



On Thursday, January 30th, the Jackson Memorial High School Mock Trial Team won its first Ocean County Championship since 2002 with their victory over MATES. Their championship run began on Saturday, January 25th with victories over Brick Memorial and Toms River South in the preliminary rounds, and a huge victory over Central Regional High School (the county champion the past two years) in the semifinal round.

Every year the New Jersey State Bar Foundation creates a fictional case for schools to argue, alternating between a criminal and civil focus each year. This year's case was a criminal case, where on the night of August 17, 2017 the Defendant, Charlie Quinn, killed K9 Officer MacGregor and was being charged with needlessly killing a law enforcement officer and a police animal. Each participating school creates a Prosecution side and a Defense side for the case using the witnesses and exhibits provided by the State, arguing for or against Charlie against the opposing side of another school.

The JMHS team was led by senior Gabrielle Lirosi, the lead prosecutor; Dylan Celeste, her co-counsel; and witnesses: Brooke Tierney (playing the role of Officer Steph Murray); Jayson Dixon (playing the role of Lew Olden); and Kaitlyn Vega (playing the role of Dr. Carlin George). Also helping the team on the way to its championship were the members of the defense: Elle Silvestre (an attorney); Guinevere Nikitin (playing the role of the Defendant); Charlie Quinn and Sophia Cinquegrana (playing the role of Kal Simpson); and Jessica Vilacoba (playing the role of Dr. Mel Allen). This championship was a team effort, and could never have been accomplished if not for the many hours of hard work, effort, determination, and motivation of all nine students listed above.

As county champions, the team moves on to the State competition, which begins on Thursday, February 6th, as we hope to become the first Ocean County team to ever win the State title.

Anyone interested in joining the Mock Trial Club next year (as the season's almost ended this year) should listen for the fall announcements.

Seniors of the Month

Shanon Stroud



If I got to choose a superpower for myself I would choose telekinesis. It is the best superpower you could ever have. You want to fly? Telekinesis. You want to shut the light off but you're warm and tired in bed? Telekinesis. Remote too far away? Telekinesis. There is no better power than telekinesis, period.

Eric Noon

If I could pick any famous person to have dinner with it would HAVE to be Jack Black. As a big fan of his work ever since I laid my eyes on the masterpiece that is Kung Fu Panda, I know dinner with him would be an enjoyable and unforgettable night. He'd make tons of jokes, maybe play an instrument or burst into song, probably give good advice about being yourself and becoming successful, and he might even throw my name around over in Hollywood. Plus, I might even get to cameo on his now famous YouTube channel, Jablinski Games, or get a facetime call with The Rock, one of his fellow co-stars. But none of that would compare to just sharing a meal with and getting to be able to talk to the American Icon, Jack Black.



Alexa DiGiovanni



Ever since I can remember I have always wanted to stop time. This superpower is often forgotten but is probably the most functional in real-world situations. Throughout my high school career, there have been numerous times where I wished time would speed up or slow down. For example, I wish time would slow down when I go to bed so I can sleep a little longer. Yet, I want that one boring class to go by in seconds. Also, I would like to stop certain moments so I can truly cherish them. I cannot thank JMHS enough for all the wonderful memories it has given me. Even though I can't slow down the time left of my senior year, I will remember it forever.

Michael Daton

I would eat dinner with Gordon Ramsay. Eating dinner with Gordon seems like a fun experience especially if he made the food. His shows, Kitchen Nightmare, in particular has inspired me to make my own creative cuisines! Everything from frozen chicken nuggets to...well that's about it, I'm not that talented at cooking. Anyway, eating dinner with Gordon Ramsay is definitely on my bucket list.

