

PRIDE *in Education*



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NFL comes to Fifth Grade

Mrs. Oxx and Mr. Whytlaw's fifth grade class experienced an exciting room transformation as they practiced their Fast Fact Automaticity in their first National Facts League. The students were challenged in their multiplication facts as each team was determined to make it to the other team's end zone. After three rounds "Team 1" was crowned NFL Champions! All of the teams had a great time showing off their multiplication skills as well as their great sportsmanship! We are looking forward to round two coming soon. ■

Lead U Crew Visits Switlik School!

Under the direction of Guidance Counselor Mrs. Patti DeBenedetto, Anti-Bullying and Character Education are two important themes that everyone strives to promote at Switlik School. At the beginning of the year, the school was lucky to host Mr. J.D. Wilson and his team from Lead U to meet with Switlik's student learners. Lead U is a positive group of teaching artists who creatively engage, educate and empower students of all ages to find the leaders within themselves. Through discussions, short skits, and interactive activities, the staff from Lead U wants every student to know that "they are superheroes and each of them can do anything that they work toward," which of course is something that the staff at Switlik School believes and will continue to encourage all year long! ■



Jackson Liberty Band Earns Another State Title

The Jackson Liberty Band brought home another NJ State Championship Title this past year! This title differs from any other in the history of the town as they are now a part of the Open Class circuit which only the best and highest scoring bands are asked to perform. Throughout the season, the Jackson Liberty Band earned not only first place performances, but also Best Overall Grand Champion awards.

Achieving Best Overall means they had the highest score out of all of the competing bands. Including all groups sizes and classes, the status is considered best in show with additional awards for best percussion, best music and best colorguard. Congratulations to the Jackson Liberty Band and Colorguard members for their outstanding achievements! ■





Today Crawford... Tomorrow The Food Network Channel!

Students in Mrs. Alkalay's, Mrs. Sanzone's and Mrs. Hallenbeck's 3rd grade class baked homemade bread for Thanksgiving. After working in groups to bake delicious bread, the students used their experience to write a narrative about their experience! Special thanks to Mrs. Ulrich, Julianna, Mrs. Purden, Mrs. Angus, Mrs. LuCugna, and Mr. and Mrs. Simon for their helping hands! Many thanks to PRIDE for sponsoring the baking event! ■



During the Week of Respect, art students at JLHS created colorful wings to display in the main hallway. Students and colleagues were allowed to stand and have their photo taken with the wings to "Spread their Positivity."



Fossils Discovered at Crawford Rodriguez

Mrs. Goldstein and Mrs. Vitale's first grade class at Crawford Rodriguez are learning about dinosaurs! On Friday October 26, 2018 they got to be paleontologists. First, they learned that paleontologists study prehistoric life and fossils, including everybody's favorite:

dinosaurs! Students were then given the opportunity to dig apart a block of dirt in search of dinosaur fossils. As scientists, the children discovered incredible things including rocks, amber and even teeth! Each fossil was unique and each student took the time to write about their findings and discoveries in their very own science journal. It was a great experience for everyone and a wonderful way to open young minds to the exciting world of paleontology. ■



Holman Students Get Published!

Students in Mrs. McEneaney's class at Holman Elementary School have written their own book and it is going to be published! Each student in the class researched a different house pet and wrote one chapter about that particular animal. The students were given the option to choose their topics based on their own real-life pets, and while they included information about their own personal experiences, the children also used library books to research more facts and information about each pet being presented. Throughout each chapter, students included information about diet, exercise, veterinary care and supplies needed to properly take care of each pet. The students illustrated the entire book as well! Now the book has been sent to a publisher and bound copies will be sent back to Holman School in a few weeks. Everyone is very excited to see the finished product! ■



Social & Emotional Training Workshops Held at JLHS

Kristie-Anne Opaleski, a teacher and technical trainer at JLHS, presented a fantastic workshop to Liberty staff members on Social & Emotional Learning. Central Administration will soon be piloting a Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) initiative designed to train teachers to assist students in handling day to day pressures, increase student coping skills and combat the increase in mental health issues which are on the rise nationwide. This program is voluntary this year and will be fully implemented over a three to five year period. A total of 30 JLHS teachers volunteered to receive additional training and pilot the program next year. ■



Kids Can Learn a Lot from *NERDs*

On October 18th, Holman Elementary School students enjoyed learning about positive character from the Morris Brothers during School Violence Awareness Week. The Morris Brothers are two N.E.R.D.s (*Never Ending Radical Dudes*) who use comedy to teach students about important topics including having positive character, dealing with conflict and the importance of coming to school every day. The students truly enjoyed the assembly! Special thanks to Holman's Parent-Teacher Organization, H.O.P.E., for sponsoring this assembly for the Holman students. ■

Typecast at JLHS

On October 10, 2018, JLHS teacher Nicole Mathias and the Jackson Arts Academy hosted a live stage production called *Typecast*. *Typecast* was held in the JLHS Auditorium and was a live presentation of the Honors Theatre Production and Performing Arts. The students who put on a live show for the attendees were truly amazing. Tickets sold for \$3.00 each and all proceeds were donated to JLHS National Honor Society and Deborah Hospital. ■

Libraries Are a Year-Round Destination!

This summer, the elementary school libraries were open for book selection and programming. Students and their families were invited to peruse the collection and check out books that were of interest to them. This initiative directly supported the revamped “Summer Reading Program” by providing access to quality reading materials to the most at-risk students.

The program also allowed district teacher librarians to engage with students and their parents throughout the summer months. This strengthened the home/school connection and created a partnership with lasting effects!

Check it Out program goals:

- Provide students and their families access to quality fiction and nonfiction titles.
- Help combat the effects of summer slide.
- Strengthen the home/school connection.
- Create a school culture that supports the needs of lifelong readers throughout the entire year. ■





Elms Celebrates AAC Awareness Month

October was Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Awareness Month. Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is a term used to describe the various methods of communication people use who are unable to produce verbal speech. It is also used by people who require a means to supplement their verbal speech if they have difficulty being understood verbally by others. Many students at Elms use AAC devices. In an effort to celebrate the month and bring awareness to the Elms student community these students were highlighted through various activities throughout the week.

Several students utilized their AAC devices to recite the Pledge of Allegiance during morning announcements throughout the week. The preschool students that utilize AAC devices joined their kindergarten peers during their morning meetings to participate in morning greetings using their AAC devices. The Speech Therapists and other staff members created an AAC wall outside of the cafeteria where students and staff can read educational information about Augmentative and Alternative Communication. In addition, students and staff can view pictures of some of their peers using their devices in various situations throughout the day like when requesting a choice at snack time, ordering lunch in the cafeteria, greeting staff and peers, and much more.

The students had such an amazing experience throughout the month that they are now taking more time during the day to greet each other and make attempts to communicate while in the halls and when they see each other during other school activities. ■



Annual Switlik Fall Festival Pumpkin Contest!

Each October the staff at Switlik school tends to get a little competitive as they show off their artistic talent during the annual Fall Festival Pumpkin Contest. Participating staff members each receive a large and healthy pumpkin, supplied by our generous Switlik PTN, and are able to take it home for one week in order to make their creative ideas become a reality. This is when the staff is challenged to demonstrate their skill in both carving and painting, creating unique designs for all of the students to enjoy.

Creations including video game and book characters to superheroes and even everyday objects are just a few examples of what the staff creates for this event. The best part comes when the finished pumpkin projects are displayed in the main hallway during the day of the Fall Festival celebration for all to see. Each homeroom comes down, with voting tickets in hand, and all students get to vote for their own personal favorite, with the top three winners being announced at the PTN Fall Festival Family Fun Night later that evening!

Additionally, students and parents are able to bid a small amount for a chance to win and take home their favorite

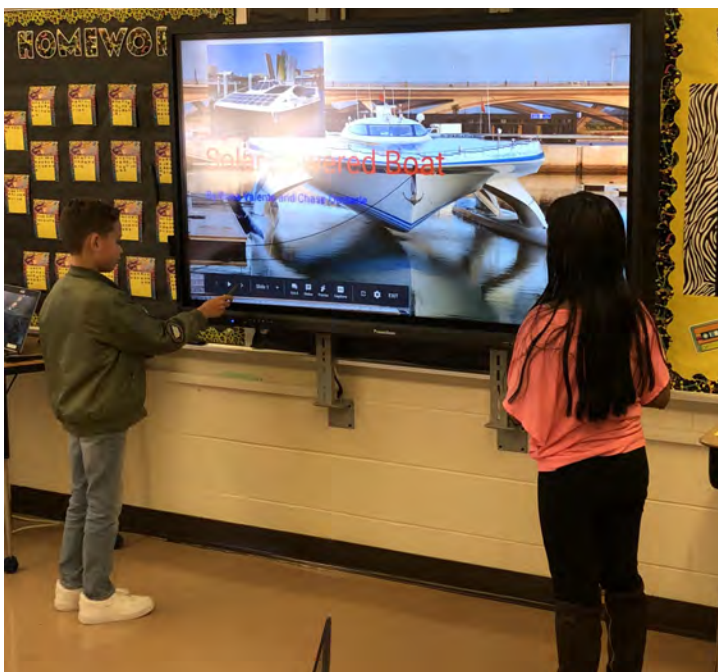
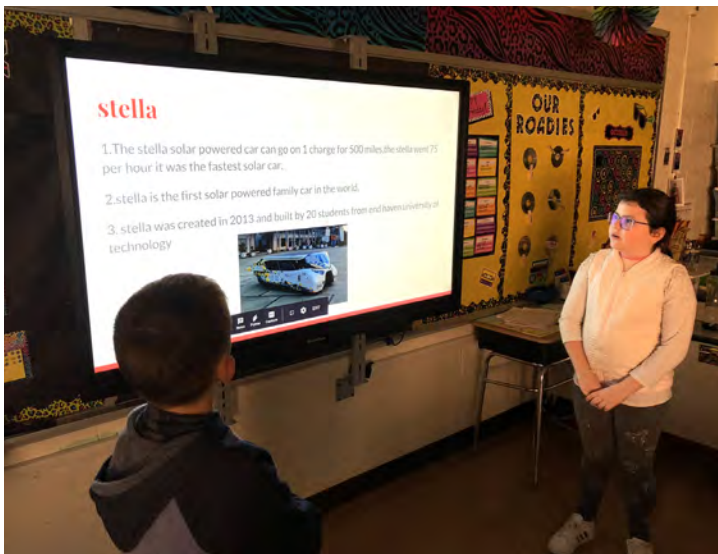


pumpkin, with all proceeds going back to the wonderful Switlik PTN organization. Congratulations to the staff of Switlik for their continued dedication and participation in this event as they truly inspire the students with their creativity and allow them to learn a small lesson in civics during the voting process! ■



Liberty Students Create New "Elf" Feature Film

JLHS teachers Harry Ferone and Ethan Noble, along with students from the Digital Media Academy, wrote and produced a one hour feature film based on the movie ELF. Changing the storyline just a bit, in their interpretation, the Elf Buddy was the daughter of the JLHS Principal who was put up for adoption at an early age. Buddy is now searching for her Mom and her Mom's acceptance as the storyline unfolds. The one hour film will air at school on December 21st during 3rd period on Cablevision channel 77 and on the Digital Academy's YouTube channel. ■



Holman Students Research Clean Energy Alternatives

The 4th grade students in Mrs. Such's class at Holman Elementary School have been studying energy in their science lessons. They have been concentrating in particular on how to conserve fossil fuels by using alternative clean energy sources including solar power. The class researched solar power devices for two days in their project-based learning groups, then they were given the task of creating Google slideshow presentations. The various devices they researched included solar-powered boats, cars, calculators and balloons as well as lamps and backpacks. One student's father works for a solar energy company, so that student brought in dad's solar backpack to show the class. It was fun and informative project and the students had a blast! ■



Welcome to the New Switlik Media Center

Under the direction of the amazing Media Specialist Ms. Lori Palme, the students and staff members at Switlik School are so thrilled to be utilizing the newly renovated media center for both research and hands on activities. Students are enjoying their weekly book exchange along with having new and innovative reading areas where they can find a little nook in order to enjoy their book!

Additionally, the Media Center is filled with various hands on STEM stations with different interactive activities for the student learners, many of which promote elementary engineering and design.

A great deal of thanks goes out to the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Daniel Baginski for his leadership and support of this initiative. Additionally, a huge thank you also goes out to Switlik's Vice Principal, Mrs. Renee Pagano-Hein for all of her countless hours of research, planning and coordination for this project during the past year in order to make it a reality. Modernizing the Switlik Media Center into a true innovative and engaging learning environment will have a beneficial impact on students for years to come! ■



McAuliffe Students Experience Speed-Dating: Book Style!

The students at McAuliffe Middle School had a great time meeting up with new books during the library program “Book Speed Dating.” During the all day event, students were given five minutes per table to meet and greet new book titles. They would then rate their books 1-10 and have to decide if the book was worth ‘dating’ or if they should ‘dump it’ and move on. There was a lot of fun word play throughout the day and students had a great time meeting ‘new titles’ and matching up with books they may not have chosen from the shelf on their own. Students who were unable to find their perfect match during the event were set up on ‘blind dates’ with books from a mystery cart. All good dates end with a ‘kiss,’ so each student, as they were checking out their new-found loves (books), were treated to a Hershey Kiss! There were a lot of laughs throughout the day and a good time was had by all! ■



STEM Buddy Project Brings Fifth Graders and Kindergartners Together

Fifth grade students in Mrs. Milton's and Mrs. Kowalewski's class recently partnered up with kindergarten students in Mrs. Albertino's class to work on a STEM buddy project. Using a rubber band as their power source, the classes learned about stored energy.

Working together, students created a catapult out of popsicle sticks and rubber bands. The classes then used the catapults to launch plastic spiders at targets. It was a great learning experience for everyone. The fifth graders and the kindergartners loved working together! ■



Soldier's Angel

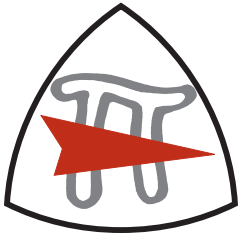
Kathie Mitchell is a true "Soldier's Angel." For many years Mrs. Mitchell has been quietly helping the Soldier's Angel program bring happiness to soldiers both at home and away for the holidays. This year, Mrs. Mitchell recruited the aid of the students and staff in room 107 at Goetz Middle School, where she is a paraprofessional. Together with help from the students, the students' families, fellow staff members in room 107, and friends in the school, the class collected over 800 holiday items to be used to fill holiday stockings for soldiers. The class collected games, gloves, hats, candy, Slim Jims, hot chocolate, holiday themed pads and pencils, and much, much, more! The students took great pride in collecting, sorting, counting, tallying and celebrating as more items came in each day. The excitement rose as the count kept changing, going up, up, up! Mrs. Mitchell provided 25 Santa Hats to be used as the stockings in hopes the soldiers could wear the hats to their holiday dinner. The students then wrote holiday messages to the soldiers to be included in the stockings, a message they composed themselves from their hearts. The students and staff rejoiced at having reached

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Jackson Education Association

55 N. County Line Road
Jackson, New Jersey 08527

Carol Mould, *President*
Lisa Crate, *Vice President*
Marcus Villecco, *Treasurer*
Stephanie Healy, *Corresponding Secretary*
Elaine Holleran, *Recording Secretary*
Phone: (732) 367-4954



Soldier's Angel *continued*

their goal of filling 25 hats to make 25 soldiers happy this holiday season. As a class, everyone enjoyed celebrating the December holidays in October and learning what it's like to

be a soldier away from home. Thanks to Mrs. Mitchell for her caring, sharing, and dedication to the soldiers and students here in room 107 at Goetz Middle School. ■

