

PRIDE *in Education*



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Holman School Hosts Annual Read Across America Events

Holman Elementary School celebrated Read Across America with a week of fun activities. Crazy hat day, crazy sock day, dress-like-a-Dr. Seuss-character day, and the HOPE-PTA-sponsored Scholastic Book Fair— all of these events occurred during the week of February 25-March 1! The highlight of the week took place on the evening of Thursday, February 28th when Holman held its annual “Dr. Seuss Read Across America Pajama Party.” Students and their families were invited back to school that night to listen to stories read by teachers and to watch a show of the Dr. Seuss book *Horton Hatches the Egg* performed by Holman staff members on

stage. Refreshments were served and prizes were raffled off. More than 40 Holman staff members volunteered their time to make a fun evening for students and their families, celebrating reading and good books! ■

Goetz Middle School Holds a Successful Book Drive

The Goetz Middle School had a very successful fall book drive, collecting hundreds of books to add to teachers’ classroom libraries. The very generous Goetz Middle School PTN donated Barnes and Noble Gift Cards to give the winners. The winners were: Olesya Myrovych, Samuel Amyot, Matthew Scuzzese, Grace Hagemann, Gabriella Rees, and Andrew Kline. Thank you to all who participated and enhanced our literacy classroom libraries. It is greatly appreciated. ■



A Fun and Busy Week for Crawford Third Graders

What a fun week in Mrs. Alkalay's, Mrs. Sanzone's & Mrs. Hallenbeck's third grade classroom. Students celebrated Valentine's Day by baking up homemade

chocolate chip cookies, delicious heart shaped pizzas, and entering the mailbox contest! On the 100th day of school, February 15th, everyone enjoyed dressing up as 100 year old men and women sharing their wisdom, playing Bingo, and appreciating all that seniors have to offer! ■



Switlik Community Members Participate in Annual “Soup-er Bowl” Collection Drop Off!



Switlik students love making predictions, especially when they can do something to help others at the same time! In the weeks leading up to Super Bowl, students were asked to collect non perishable food items that they would be able to donate to the Jackson Food Pantry in order to make a difference to those in need. With a drop off center and team bins created by Mrs. Decker, students had a chance to vote and predict who they thought would win the championship game between the Los Angeles Rams and New England Patriots football teams. The final totals were 447 votes for the Rams vs. 131 votes for the Patriots. The Switlik faculty and staff are pleased to announce that they received many more donations than last year. Although students and staff may not have made the best prediction, as the New England Patriots would go on to win the game, it was an enjoyable experience for all to be involved with. Special thanks go out to the students and everyone in the Switlik community for their assistance in reaching out to help others locally! ■

Rosenauer Hosts a “SOUPER BOWL”

During the Rosenauer “Souper Bowl”, Rosenauer students brought in dozens of cans of soup to participate in this annual event. Even though students and staff overwhelmingly chose the LA Rams, everyone knows that the REAL winner is the Jackson Food Pantry! Hundreds of soups and canned items were collected and placed in one

of the two labeled bins for the *New England Patriots* or *Los Angeles Rams*. All items were distributed to Jackson families in need through the Jackson Food Pantry. A BIG thank you to all who participated! ■

New Weather Station Opens at Holman

Holman Elementary School students and staff are excited about sharing the news of a creative STEM initiative to the Jackson School District that provides students with a real-world example of how the study of science can turn into a fun and engaging career. Students and staff are using real-time data in the curriculum and project-based learning from Holman’s own **WeatherSTEM weather station**. The installation of this weather station puts the Holman Elementary School on WeatherBug.com and means Jackson now has a local weather point of data that feeds into national weather.

Inspired by the weather station, Holman Elementary School contacted former Holman student and Jackson Memorial graduate, *Meteorologist Dan Zarrow of NJ101.5*. Mr. Dan Zarrow spoke to students in grades K-5 about weather, meteorology, and how snow forms. Students and staff were blown away by his presentation and hope to have him back again soon! ■



Holman Students Have Recycling 'In the Bag'

Holman Elementary School joined the Jackson Township Department of Public Works and the TREX Decking Company to help educate students on the importance of recycling and keeping plastic out of landfills. Students learned that items like plastic shopping bags, bread or newspaper bags, and the plastic wrappers around cases of water should be recycled separately from cans and bottles. The Holman students were challenged to collect 500 pounds of plastic by the end of May. But the students collected over 43,000 bags in just a few weeks, and that is over 700 pounds of plastic! The TREX Decking Company is going to recognize the efforts of the Holman School community by building a special bench in their honor at the Veterans Memorial in Jackson. Great job Holman students! ■



Rosenauer 5th Graders Turn Chorus Concert Into A Theatrical Production!

Under the direction of Mrs. Lynnea Noble, 5th grade students got the experience of performing not only in a chorus concert, but a mini-musical production for their annual chorus event. The theme of this year's show was

'THIS IS ME: A Celebration of US.' This original script that was written specifically for this year's show told the story of Ava, a student who finds out she is moving and how the sudden news sends her down a path of uncertainty. How will she still pursue her dreams, accomplish her goals and make new friends in an entirely new school?



The night kicked off with a red carpet event where student interviewers greeted audience members before entering the theatre. The red carpet interviews were streamed live on projection screens inside the theatre adding a nice touch to the evening's event. The show allowed students to experience many facets of the performing arts which included acting, dancing, singing and of course lots of spectacle: from bubble machines to a disco ball, confetti cannons and a rear projection screen on stage. Seeing all 58 students on stage nailing the 50 second costume change, which revealed everyone wearing THIS IS ME shirts when the grand curtain reopened, was just one of many moments that made this year's performance so special. The evening inspired a new passion for the stage in many of the students involved and the pure joy that students radiated on stage created a memory that will last a lifetime! ■

Holman Students are Reaching New Heights!

During the month of January, students at Holman Elementary School participated in Rock Wall Challenges during their physical education classes. Students in all grades from Kindergarten through Fifth Grade





were faced with multiple challenges and problem-solving scenarios. For example, one challenge was the Rock Wall Obstacle Course, where the students had to overcome various obstacles, high and low, to move from one end of the rock wall to the other without falling. The obstacles included a volcano, a cave, a tunnel, and a waterfall constructed out of pool noodles attached to the wall. These activities challenged both the physical and mental abilities of the students as they had to decide on the spot which way to go—over, under, around, or through — to overcome the obstacle. Another challenge was the game Capture the Flag on the rock wall, which also tested the students’ endurance, muscular strength, and decision-making skills. Even though they were challenging, the students enjoyed all of the activities! ■

Dash & Dot At Holman

Students from all grade levels at Holman School have been exploring with their robots “Dash and Dot.” The new district-wide STEM curriculum provides students the opportunity to learn about computer programming. Students also learn problem-solving and collaboration skills as they work as a team to complete the various challenges, such as driving the robot Dash around cups, and coding his movements using the Blockly and Go Apps. ■



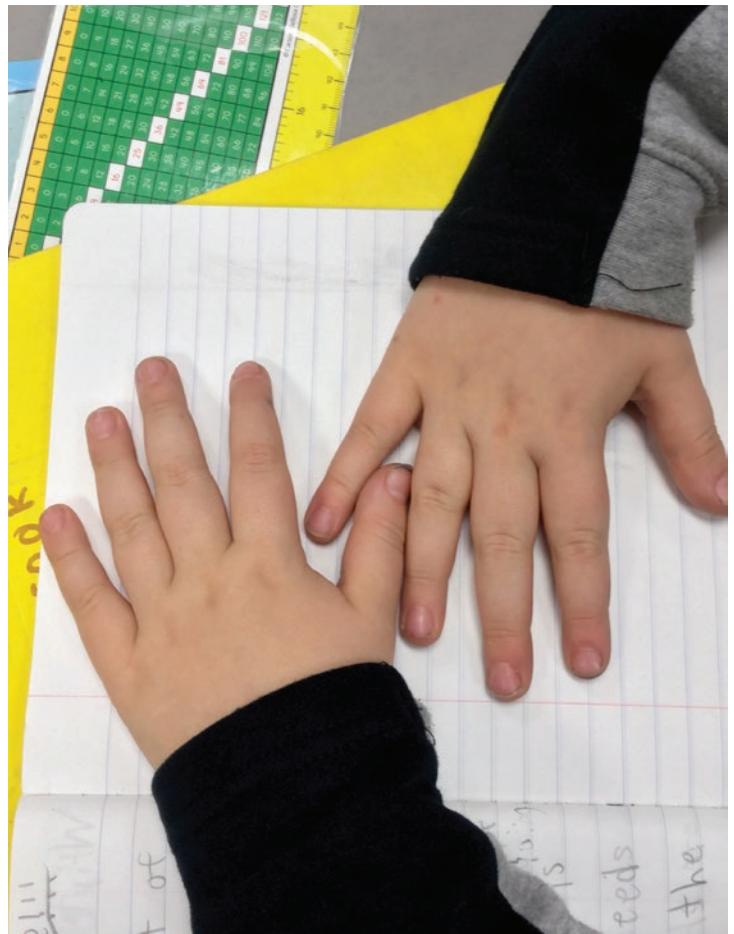
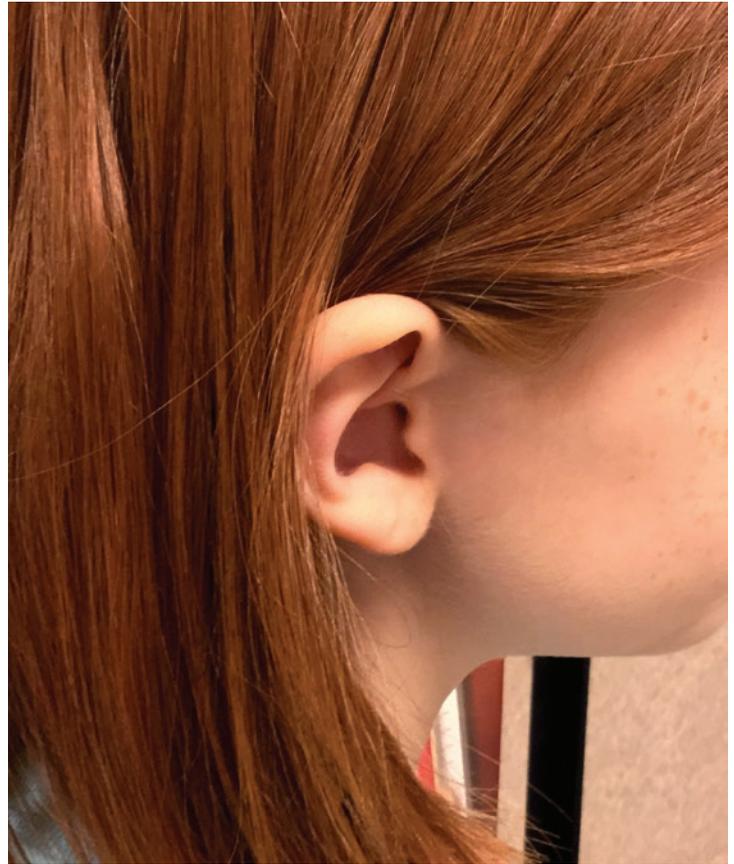
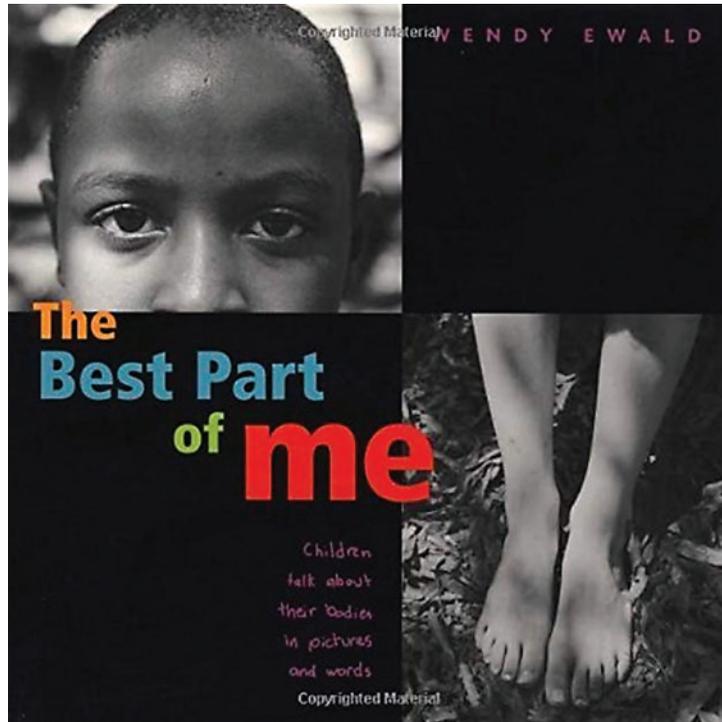
Switlik Students Compete in Annual Spelling Bee

Switlik students recently competed in the annual 4th and 5th grade Switlik School Spelling Bee in order to determine who would be the representatives for the 2019 Jackson School District Spelling Bee as well as the overall Scripps Spelling Champion! Switlik School is pleased to announce that Chase K won the overall contest and will represent our school at the Scripps Spelling Bee this Spring. The overall Top 5 was rounded out with GraceAnne V, Emi T, James S, and Benjamin G. Thanks to Mrs. Magee and Mrs. Parella for organizing this event, which was a fun time for all involved. The Switlik community is so proud of these student participants as they worked so hard during the competition! Congratulations to all that participated! ■



Crawford Students Celebrate What Makes Them Special

Earlier in the school year when Ms. Schlossberg's students were still getting to know each other, they read the book "The Best Part of Me" by Wendy Ewald. After reading and discussing the book, each student decided on the best part of them and wrote about it. Ms. Schlossberg then took pictures of all the best parts of her students and, along with their writing, hung them up for all to see. It was a wonderful way for students to celebrate what makes them so special! ■





Rosenauer Welcomes Ms. Ghizzone

You might be wondering, “Who is Ms. Ghizzone?” Ms. Denise Ghizzone is a teacher and an author. She has written two books: *Determination* and *Knowledge, Acceptance, Compassion: A Journey of Learning About Understanding and Responding to People as Individuals*.

Writing a book or two is no small feat and many aspire to accomplish publishing a book. The interesting thing about Denise is that she writes from the experiences she has faced as a woman with cerebral palsy. She is non-ambulatory and nonverbal, but neither keeps her in one place for long or prevents her from telling the world her story with passion and the desire to share her experiences in hopes of making the world a better place. She is determined to help everyone respond and understand to people as individuals.

Her book *Determination* highlights her journey from birth until her college graduation. It also focuses on the different ways she communicated over the years. From basic Big Mac and Rocker Switches, to using a head pointer and QWERTY



keyboard, moving on to basic computers such as a Speech Pac and finally an elaborate system called the Liberator. The Liberator is a high tech, state of the art computer that is a fast and easy way to communicate with people. There are blinking lights above pictures that she operates by using her knee to control the lights and eye gaze to scan on the correct picture. It is technology at its finest.

Many may wonder how Rosenauer Elementary came to have such an acclaimed author and human being at their school. The connection goes way back before one of our teachers ever stepped foot in Rosenauer. Mrs. Koopman, a special education teacher, worked at the Ladacin Network Schroth School in Wanamassa, NJ. Ever since joining the Jackson School District, Mrs. Koopman has invited her previous students to come in and

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Rosenauer Welcomes Ms. Ghizzone (continued from page 7)

meet her current students with a focus on socialization as well as educating the students about alternative communication devices.

The day Ms. Ghizzone and students from Ladacin came to visit, the students were able to participate in a question and answer period, to see how different communication devices work, and share lunch with their new friends. In preparation for the visit, Mrs. Koopman read aloud *Determination*. Together, Mrs. Koopman and her students prepared a list of questions for Ms. Ghizzone and the visiting students. These questions were thoughtful and mirrored the curiosity and compassion cultivated by Mrs. Koopman. Ms. Ghizzone answered these questions with detail and a direct connection to her life and the book students came to know her through.

During an occupational therapy group with Mrs. Dougherty, the students made head pointers and QWERTY keyboards to use during class so that they could get a better understanding of how difficult it is to communicate without speaking. Discussions were also held with the wonderful occupational and speech therapists, Mrs. Dougherty and Mrs. Westrich in the month before the visit so that the students were prepared with a greater understanding of different devices and tools for feeding at lunch. Students had the opportunity to see these devices utilized in an up close and personal way.

Kudos to Mrs. Koopman for organizing an experience that these students could not find in a textbook or a Google search. They spent a day with real people learning about real determination and triumph.

For more information on Ladacin Network, the website is <https://www.ladacin.org/>. For more specific information on Ms. Ghizzone or to schedule a possible visit, her youtube channel is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChJf0o8dKan7vDo7-ykKPfw>. ■

Jackson School District Alumna Returns to Goetz for a Mini Performance

On Wednesday, January 16, 2019, Jackson School District alumna Grace Guippone visited with Goetz Middle School eighth grade chorus members for a



performance and question and answer session. Grace, who attends Monmouth University as a Music Education major with a concentration in voice, met with the Goetz chorus students to share her experiences as a chorus student during her years in Jackson. She attended Elms Elementary School and sang under the direction of Mrs. Susan Sumutka, Goetz Middle School where she was in the chorus and honors choir, under the direction of Mr. Dennis Lawson and Mrs. Margaret Eisenschmied, and Jackson Memorial High School, where she was in the choir and concert choir under the direction of Mr. Ed Robertson.

Grace originally enrolled at Monmouth University intending to become a social worker but her musical background tugged at her heart and she joined the choir at the university. After hearing her sing, the choir director approached Grace and their ensuing conversation led to Grace rediscovering her true passion for vocal music and for teaching.

Grace, who is a soprano, sang Schubert's *Ave Maria*, *I Could Have Danced All Night* from *My Fair Lady*, and *Think of Me* from *Phantom of the Opera*. She chatted with the students about the importance of good vocal technique, provided tips for a productive warm up process and how to develop good vowel and tone production. It was an enlightening and uplifting experience for everyone involved. Thank you Grace, for sharing your time and talents with the Goetz Middle School Chorus students. ■

Holman Hosts Annual 'Paws Fur Love' Collection

For the third year in a row, students at Holman Elementary are collecting donations for pets in need. "Paws Fur Love" has been collecting donations such as cat and dog food,



treats, leashes, blankets/towels and pet toys to distribute to various rescue groups and the Jackson Animal Shelter. Second grade students have been working hard to create posters with donation information, making morning announcements to create awareness, and counting the donations received. ShopRite of Jackson has donated ice cream cups to the grade level that donates the most items, and HOPE (Holman's Organization of Parents and Educators) has donated the toppings for the ice cream party. Students are learning how their actions impact others, while also learning how they can impact pets in need with this donation drive. ■

Switlik 3rd Graders Employed as Text Feature Surgeons!

Mrs. Gilmore & Ms. Hoermann's 3rd Grade Class wrapped up their nonfiction unit by being surgeons—'Text Feature Surgeons' that is! The classroom was transformed into an operating room and the students into doctors (adorned with surgical caps, masks,



and gloves) for this fun, cumulative activity. Vice Principal "Dr." Mrs. Pagano-Hein also took part in the action. Students were tasked to identify 10 different nonfiction text features that they had to find, cut out, and suture onto their patient in order to "save" them. Once their patient was "saved", students had to write their "surgical notes" about two of the text features they chose and explain what their purpose within reading was. They also had to reflect on the importance of nonfiction text features while reading. Students had a blast in their final nonfiction unit activity and will remember this lesson for a very long time! ■





Mr. Bryan facilitated two districtwide Family Nights this year, both held at Rosenauer. He's worked with many families, showing them how to incorporate *The Art of Comprehension* when supporting children at home. These Family Nights were funded through Title 1. On January 10, 2019, as Mr. Bryan's book entered the world for the first time, he was in the library at Rosenauer Elementary, standing room only, doing what he loves best ~ talking to families about *The Art of Comprehension*. ■

McAuliffe Middle School Opens Vintage Shoppe

McAuliffe Middle School is now home to the very trendy Vintage Shoppe. The Vintage Shoppe, a thrift store that recently opened in the McAuliffe School Library, was the brainchild of physical education teacher Vicki Hay. With the help of librarian Lisa Crate, the dream came to life in the form of a fun, new 'store' where all students are invited to shop.

The Vintage Shoppe is a unique store because it allows students to shop for clothing and school items without the worry of not having enough money to make a purchase. Every single item of clothing in the store, whether it be a t-shirt, sweatshirt, jeans, sweater, winter coat or shoes is priced all the same: \$1. Vicki Hay says of the Shoppe, "It was an idea of having a place for all the kids to go. We have so many different kids at our school, some who are needy and some who do not have an opportunity to have all the clothes they want. We tried to put something together that would help all of our kids at McAuliffe and make it a very cool place to shop."

"I like the idea not only for the kids who might need the opportunity to shop inexpensively, but also because it gives students at this level the opportunity to have some independence. As we all know, middle school (kids) in general like the idea of independence and being able to go and get things on their own," Crate said, "The shop gives them that opportunity. It also gives them the opportunity to pick up some pencils or pens



Congratulations to Trevor Bryan, Newly Published Author!

The Rosenauer Elementary School would like to congratulate Mr. Trevor Bryan for the recent release of his long awaited book, *The Art of Comprehension*, through Stenhouse Publishers.

Mr. Bryan shares his "Access Lenses" (which is considered the heart of the Art of Comprehension) to "foster comprehension and conversations, as well as to promote confidence" when viewing art, reading and discussing books, writing and just about anything else that can be thought of. His book is filled with meaningful ways to support learners of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Mr. Bryan's unique methods allow all students to join the classroom conversation.

The forward was written by the much loved and respected Dr. Mary Howard, known world-wide for her work in books including *Good to Great Teaching*, *Moving Forward with RTI*, and *RTI From All Sides*. Peter H. Reynolds, author of books including *The Dot* and *Ish*, illustrated the cover and "Access Lenses", referenced throughout the book.



or notebooks, or anything they might need, at an inexpensive cost so they are prepared for class as well."

Principal Debra Phillips praised the teachers and students who spent time repurposing a back room in the library into a retail space. "With new paint, new cabinets and clothing racks, with everything organized and labeled, it really was important to us that every student who wanted to shop there would be allowed to shop there. It is an open space for every child in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades to find something they might be interested in," Phillips said.

The Vintage Shop will be a permanent fixture as long as donations from the community, staff members and students

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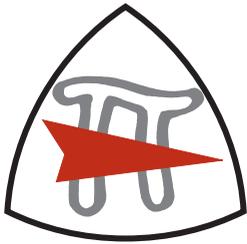
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McAuliffe Middle School Opens Vintage Shoppe (continued from page 11)

keep being delivered. "We ask for gently used clothing and we look to make sure it is age and school appropriate. Whatever items we cannot use, we donate to another venue so they have the items for their programs," Phillips said.

Donations are accepted on a daily basis. All donations may be left in the large deck box located near the front entrance of the McAuliffe Middle School. Items should be left inside the box either before or after school hours. ■

