

# PRIDE *in Education*



Volume 13 Number 1

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## “Joe on the Go” @ Liberty High School!

“Joe on the Go” is part of the Workplace Readiness class taught by Liberty staff member Julie Sica. Students spread sunshine among the staff at Jackson Liberty High School by selling a variety of snacks and coffee from a portable cart. The students participate in the “Joe on the Go” event every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during 4th period. This acts as a true life lesson extension for the participants as they are taught lessons on socialization, money exchange and change making, inventory of supplies and supply and demand of types of foods which the entire staff enjoy. The “Joe on the Go” student program models both the exemplary behavior and professionalism that is required of a successful small business owner while bringing joy to so many staff members during these difficult COVID times. ■

## Switlik Student Author Recognized by Barnes & Noble!

We are so very proud to announce that Switlik Elementary School has our very own published author—current 4th grade student Amelia Marley. Recently, Amelia was selected as a winner of the 2020 Barnes & Noble Short Story Competition. Amelia wrote the story during class with her 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Ackerman, last year. After seeing the Barnes and Noble writing contest on Ms. Palmé’s Library Media website, she decided to enter. Amelia’s story, “There Was Something Weird About That House,” stood out from the thousands of entries submitted. The anthology of short stories was recently published and is now being sold at Barnes & Noble stores in order to showcase young authors and the power of reading and writing. The profits from the sale of the books will go to the charity First Book, which provides books to children and schools in need. Amelia generously donated autographed copies of the book to her classroom teacher and to the Switlik library for all to read. Congratulations on this terrific achievement, Amelia! ■







## Jackson Education Association Members Continue to Make Strides Against Cancer!

**A**lthough the annual Point Pleasant Beach “Making Strides Cancer Walk” was postponed this past October, we are pleased to see so many of our members striving to make a difference by their efforts in fundraising and supporting both those who have battled or been affected by this horrible disease. This year we raised \$3,036 which was donated to the American Cancer Society. Congratulations to all in continuing to raise awareness and for supporting this wonderful event! ■

## Holman Elementary Observes Week of Respect, Safe Schools Week & Red Ribbon Week



**T**he month of October is the time of year when we observe the Week of Respect, Safe Schools Week, and Red Ribbon Week. The Holman Elementary School community recognizes the importance of constantly promoting a positive school climate. We strive for a learning environment where all students feel safe and achieve academic success. During the Week of Respect, Safe Schools Week, and Red Ribbon Week, both in-person and remote students as well as Holman staff participated in “Spirit Days” in an effort to keep the students engaged while strengthening good character and positive decision making. Some of the “Spirit Days” included Crazy Hair Day, Wear Neon Colors Day, and Superhero Day! ■

## Crawford Elementary School Student Pumpkin Decorating Contest!

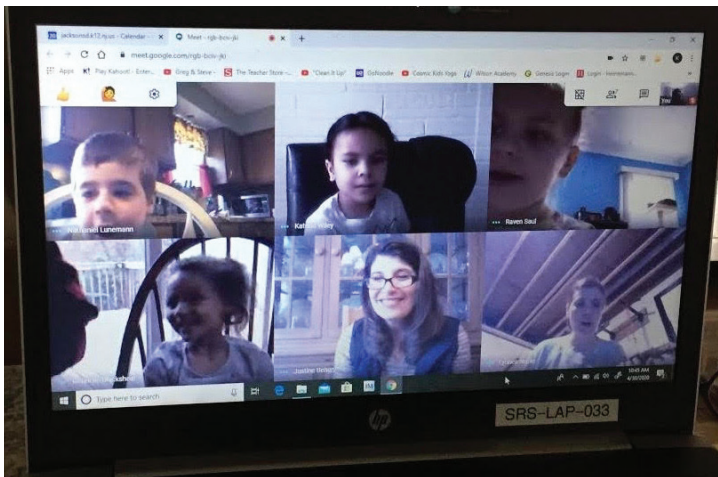
**D**uring the month of October, Crawford Rodriguez School held its very first school-wide pumpkin decorating contest for all students (hybrid & remote) and the result does not disappoint! Students used their various hands on art skills, such as painting, carving, and overall theme ideas to complete such a variety of wonderful pumpkin projects! Check out a few of the wonderful examples below. ■



## Rosenauer Teachers Team Up to Teach About Life Cycles!

**B**ack in the Spring of 2020, a few of the Rosenauer Elementary School teachers took the opportunity to use Google Meet in order to incorporate music into the teaching of a science lesson. Rosenauer Kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Behan and Mrs. Kuusalu selected students to participate in a special mini-music lesson with Rosenauer music teacher Mrs. Noble. The students learned a new song about the life





cycle of the butterfly. The bright smiles that singing brought to their faces during this Google Meet were priceless! This was one of the many creative activities that our district teachers were embarking on as we all worked together online during the early experiences of remote learning. ■

## McAuliffe Middle School Teacher Recognized For Authoring Young Adult Novel!

Jennifer Conley is a seventh-grade literacy teacher in McAuliffe. She recently received the prestigious Anthony Award for Best Young Adult for her novel *Seven Ways to Get Rid of Harry*.

Check out the following blurbs from other published writers about her wonderful book:

“*Seven Ways to Get Rid of Harry* is a poignant nostalgia trip to being thirteen in the 1980s that also has a sharp bite. It tugs at your heart-strings while making you laugh out loud. Never has the attempt to get rid of your mom’s evil boyfriend been so



charmingly portrayed. A must read!” –Lee Matthew Goldberg, author of *The Mentor* and the *Desire Card* series.

“Very few writers can do what Jen Conley does, striking the perfect balance between voice, character, and setting. But technical proficiency isn’t what makes the book so special. Her story of a screwed-up kid learning to live without his father is heartbreaking, hopeful, at times hilarious, but above all, flat-out powerful.” –Joe Clifford, author of the *Jay Porter* thrillers.

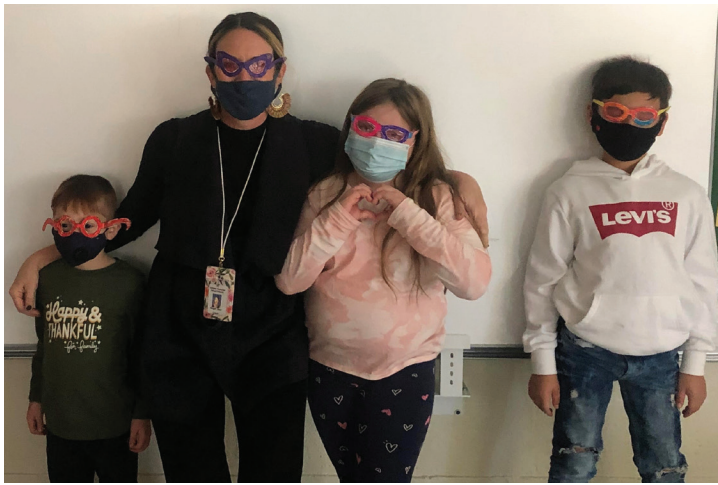
“Jen Conley brought me back to my childhood with this gripping debut. Danny Zelko battles with his mother’s abusive boyfriend amidst the helplessness, confusion, and tumultuous friendships of his formative thirteenth summer. Sometimes harrowing, often funny, this is a great and necessary read for anyone who wants to understand what it’s like for boys in that liminal stage, when faced with the challenge of a bad role model.” –Thomas Pluck, author of *Bad Boy Boogie*. ■

## Jackson Education Association Supports Local Jackson Food Pantry During The Holidays!

One of the goals of the Jackson Education Association and its members is to “help our neighbors” through both fundraising and community service. A great example of this was during our recent “JEA Food Drive” where building leaders and members worked together in donating a variety of heavily needed items to the local food pantry. We are so proud of ourselves for making this a priority as it really helps others in our own community during what has undoubtedly been a challenging year for all! From JEA President Lisa Crate—“Thanks to all who participated by either donating food or money to the cause! We collected a total of \$522 and a truckload of items that will go directly to help our students and their families! As always, I’m ever so proud to work with some of the finest people in education. Thank you to our teachers, secretaries and paraprofessionals for all that you do!” ■







## Switlik Elementary Students Focus on Perspectives!

**E**lementary teacher Ms. West and her students became a little more fashionable during a recent lesson where they learned about choosing perspectives. After designing their own individual and unique rose colored reading glasses read the book *Rosie's Glasses* by author Dave Whamond! With their eye gear on, students discussed the different perspectives and themes that they learned about while reading. What a fun way to engage children in learning to read as well as think! ■

## Elms Elementary Students Participate in "Hour of Code!"

**E**very year our Elms students celebrate the "Hour of Code" by working on lessons and activity challenges available on the Code.org website. The goal of the Hour of Code is not to teach anybody to become an expert computer scientist in one hour. Elms computer teacher Mrs. Sendeki allows her students to work with this website during the year so that her students can continue their understanding of computer science and programming in a fun and challenging way. As the Elms Elementary continues to focus on the importance of STEM, students are learning such important skills that apply to computer applications, robotics, and the overall Engineering Design Process model. ■



## Holman Holiday Drive-Thru Spreads Holiday Cheer!

**N**ot even little rain could dampen the holiday cheer shared by the Holman Elementary School community during their first-ever Holiday Drive-Thru event! On the evening of December 4, the Holman School parking lot was transformed into a "Winter Wonderland" with colored lights, holiday inflatables, and seasonal songs blasting through the air! The Holman Organization of Parents and Educators sponsored this event while our very own Holman Staff waved from the sidewalks to students and their families as they drove through the holiday displays. Even Santa Claus made a special appearance to wave and say hello to all! We wish to give many thanks to the generous Holman families who filled Santa's sleigh with gifts to be donated to the Toys for Tots organization! This was such a nice evening for all to share in! ■



## Goetz Middle School Builders Club Continues Character Development and Leadership!

**C**lub Advisors Ms. Callahan and Mrs. Pennell continue to promote goodwill as they lead our Goetz "Builders Club." The "Builders Club" is an international student organization providing members with opportunities to perform service, build character and develop leadership. It truly helps





to make students the best that they can be through fundraising efforts and activities. We are so proud of their current service during the 2020-21 school year as they are making a difference “virtually” and work even harder to “be together in service!” What a great club! ■

## Switlik 1st Grade Remote Academy Utilizing Foundations Home Kits!

**M**rs. Shroyers 1st Grade Remote Academy is having so much fun and success as they participate in their daily “live remote” Foundations lessons. As you can see, Mrs. Shroyer is successfully able to tap out sounds while teaching a “Trick Word” to her students who are all zooming in on her live Google Meets!. The first graders really enjoy using the materials in their Foundations Home Kits. Mrs. Shroyer states “I am very proud of how they tap sounds, spell words and write sentences. They are also using their learned skills to think actively while reading!” Great job kids! We are all amazed at how much you are learning this year. ■



## The Jackson Memorial & Liberty High School Air Force Junior ROTC!



**T**he objectives of AFJROTC in our district high schools are to educate and train student cadets in citizenship, promote community service, instill responsibility, character, and self-discipline, and provide instruction in air and space fundamentals. Our Mission is to truly develop citizens of character dedicated to. The AFJROTC program is grounded in the Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. The curriculum emphasizes the Air Force heritage and traditions, the development of flight, applied flight sciences, military aerospace policies, astronomy, and space exploration. What a wonderful organization and great opportunity for our interested high school students! ■

## Spreading Holiday Cheer to First Responders!

**I**n an effort to spread joy to the Jackson community, Holman Elementary School students worked with elementary art teacher Ms. Megan Many to create holiday greeting cards for the Jackson Police, Fire, and EMS during their Art classes. Students created their cards at home during virtual art classes, and then the cards were collected at school to be delivered by Ms. Many to our hard-working First Responders. Many thanks to our real life superheroes for all they do to keep us safe! ■



## Liberty & Memorial High School Band Programs Continue to Shine!

**J**ackson School District Band Directors Jason Diaz (Memorial) and Scott Katona (Liberty) brought both school bands together for an amazing “District Band Night” for the friends and family of their student musicians. This is just another wonderful example of our highly talented music program and students in showcasing their talents. Great job everyone! ■





## Elms Elementary Reminds Students—When it Comes to Reading, Every Minute Counts!

One of the most important things we can do to support our children's success is to read every day. At Elms Elementary we continue to encourage all of our students to read independently every single day. Research tells us that students' daily reading practice of 20 minutes will continue to strengthen skills in all domains (your child reads to you; you read with your child; and/or read to your child). A 1987 study by Nagy & Herman (1987) stated that reading for 20 minutes every day will expose students to over a million words a year, and those students usually test in the 90th percentile. Students who only read 5 minutes a day are exposed to less than 300,000 words per year, and typically score in the 50th percentile. Reading for 1 minute means exposure to only 8,000 words and test scores are only in the 10th percentile. When it comes to reading, every minute with your child counts! Thank you for supporting our school and district reading initiative! ■

### Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"	Student "B"	Student "C"
reads <b>20 minutes</b> each day	reads <b>5 minutes</b> each day	reads <b>1 minute</b> each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year

1,800,000 words



90<sup>th</sup> percentile

282,000 words



50<sup>th</sup> percentile

8,000 words



10<sup>th</sup> percentile

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)



## Virtual Halloween Fun w/Mrs. Henninger!

They may be remote but Mrs. Henninger's PSD Class sure has fun. For years Mrs. Henninger has taught at both the Rosenauer and Elms schools but is excited to be working virtually this year where she challenges all her students to learn in unique and innovative ways. Back in October, the entire class celebrated "Virtual Halloween" with a fun "Spooky Halloween Fruit Pop" snack. Students enjoyed labeling, touching, and even tasting fruit all topped off with little marshmallows and chocolate chips after. In this photo you get a sense of how students interact with each other during a Google Meet, where they can showcase and communicate just as they would in the physical classroom. What a fun and unique virtual activity to really get their observations going and excite all of their senses! ■

## Jackson Public Schools Speech & Hearing Department Is Filled with Pride!

Back in the spring of 2020 a group of Jackson Speech language specialists were talking about making a video for the district to celebrate May, "Better Hearing & Speech Month". As we were all first time "virtual teachers and learners" during this time, it was going to be a challenge to pull

YOU CAN COUNT  
ON ME LIKE

1..2..3

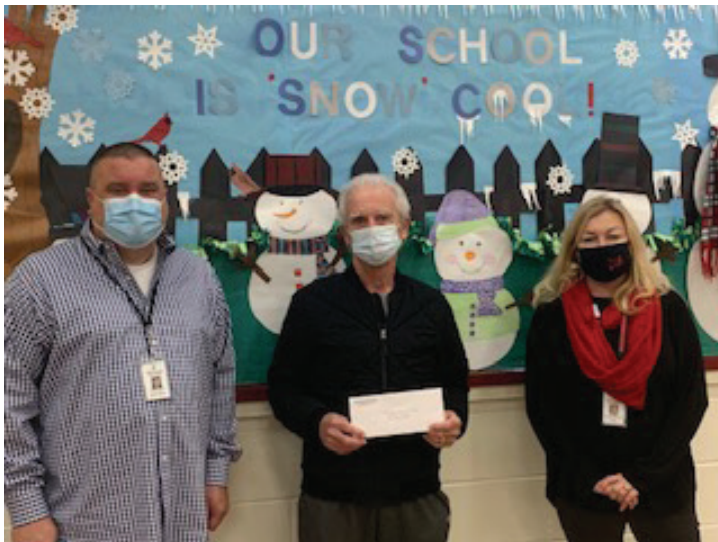
I'LL BE  
THERE..



it off but once the seed was planted, the idea just grew beyond their initial expectations. Elms educator Suellen Marsh decided to reach out to the other speech language specialists and the teacher of the deaf to see if they would also be interested in participating in this project. Everyone was enthusiastic and in agreement because they have been working very hard to reach out to their students and provide therapy and support during remote learning. There was a discussion about whether to include photos or videos of the students or the therapists working with the students or just the therapists. The group decided and got the ok from Dr. Taylor to do pictures or a video of just itself. Everyone who wanted emailed their photos to Jessica Fioretti, another educator from Elms. The district SLPs and TOTD agreed upon a day and time to have a Google Meet to get a group screenshot. Rosenauer educator JoAnn Westreich put together a sign that fit all of the district's speech, language and hearing personnel's names. We wanted to celebrate how much we love being able to see and help our students through teletherapy in their homes. Jessica Fioretti, with the help of her husband, put it all together in a wonderful slide presentation to the tune of Bruno Mars' "Count on Me." We have been here for each other during this remote learning experience and we are all very proud to be members of the JEA, where we all love serving the communication needs of our students. ■

## Holman School & The Jackson Rotary Club Team Up w/ "Project Little Soldier!"

The Jackson Rotary Club is participating in Project Little Soldier to provide holiday gifts to the children of our deployed military women and men. In addition to not having a loved parent with them this holiday season, these children are dealing with all the daily life disruptions due to the COVID-19 virus. Holman Elementary School faculty and staff participated in this fundraiser to raise money to help the Jackson Rotary Club buy gifts for these beautiful children. The school raised \$155. Happy Holiday Season to everyone! ■



## A True Jackson Liberty "Musical Family" Interaction!

This is certainly one of the most innovative activities that has happened in the Jackson School District once we all went remote last year. Collaborating and jamming on a video chat, it was so exciting to see the efforts of the Jackson Liberty student musicians, led by two amazing Jackson Liberty music teachers who also just happened to be married—Scott and Jessie Katona! Together, both of these teaching musicians had their students play a song and record themselves in its entirety. Taking it further, they even hosted a lot of Zoom sessions to record as a group—and they do mean a lot! What a great way to interact virtually and be creative as a group. Great job everyone! ■

## Switlik Kindergarten Team Keeping Students Busy w/ Traditional School Supplies!

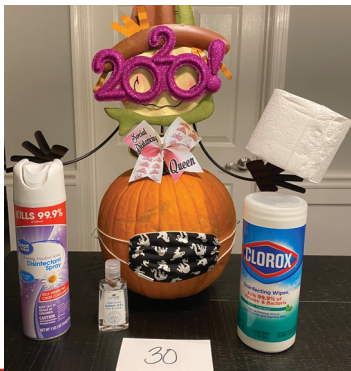
During our recent transition to a "Full Remote Learning Schedule," the Switlik Kindergarten Team was once again busy packing and handing out additional supplies to their little Kindergarten Friends! It was nice to get a peek of our kids in the cars and to provide them with materials that they could use at home. Jackson educators love technology, but sometimes it's nice for our students to unplug and utilize traditional worksheets, books, and supplies that support independent learning at home. ■





## Switlik Student Pumpkin Contest Focuses on Art & Creativity!

The Switlik Elementary school is known for their annual teacher pumpkin design contests. However this year we handed the fun over to our awesome students and gave everyone an opportunity to participate in this new and exciting student pumpkin design challenge. Those who signed up each received a pumpkin to create their artistic creations. The amount of entries was better than we could have ever expected, especially for the first year we held this event. A select group of staff members was given the task of voting for the “Best in Show” for each grade level, which honestly was a nearly impossible task as each project was so inspiring and wonderfully done. Check out a few of the submissions below, and congratulations to all who participated! ■



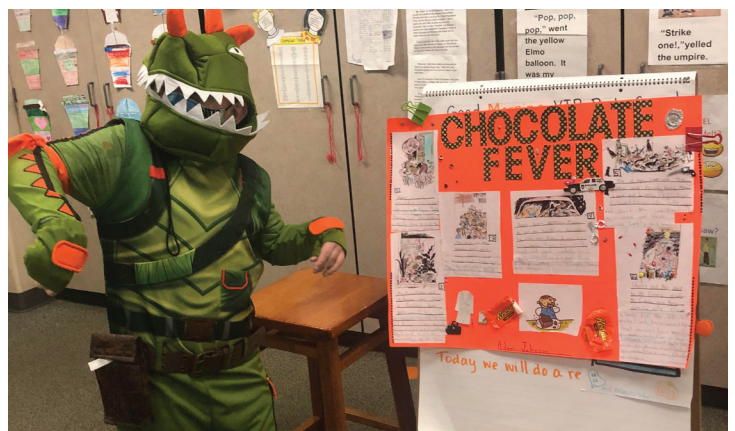
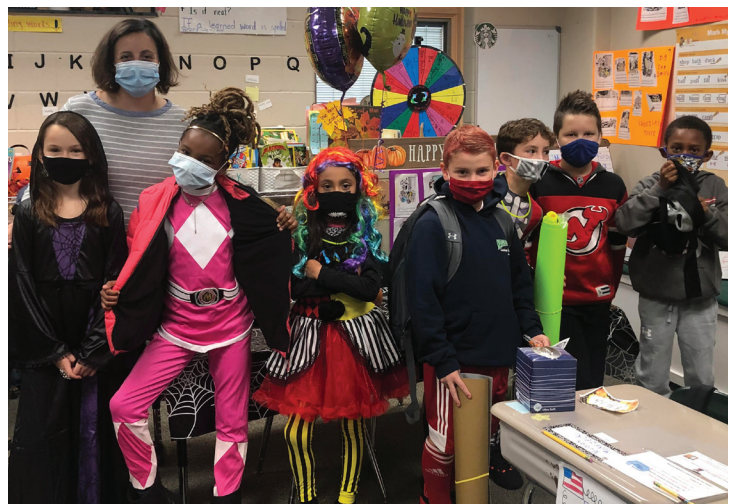
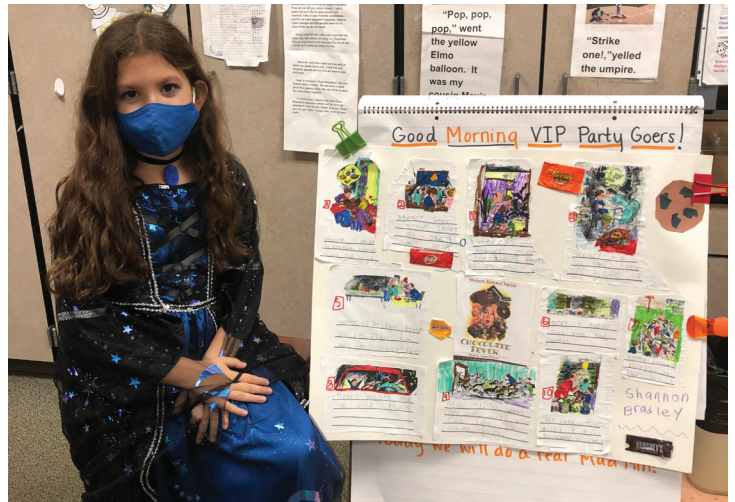
## The Fabulous Secretaries at McAuliffe Middle School!

Always there to help w/ a smile on their face, these ladies truly understand that it's always better to work together. These wonderful and dedicated staff members continue to ensure that their school runs smoothly while having a little “Halloween Fun” during their day! ■

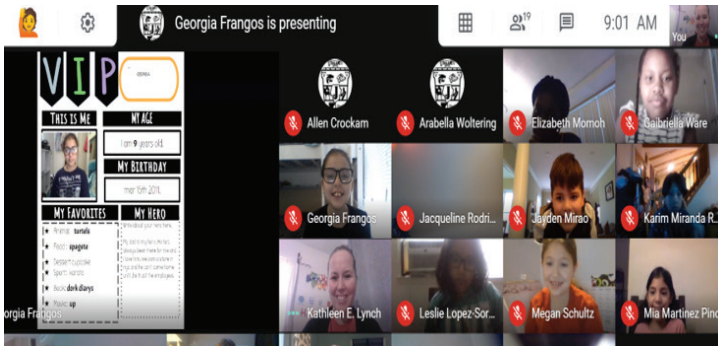


## Halloween Fun in Crawford Room A212!

Halloween was so much fun in Crawford Room A212. Crawford teachers Mrs. Alkalay, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Aquaviva & Mrs. Polito had so much fun with their students as you can see in a few of the photos included. From costumes and crafts to all their themed lesson ideas including creating an acid and base reaction “Witches Brew,” it was really special to see the kids enjoying the day in what will certainly be remembered as a very special school year! ■





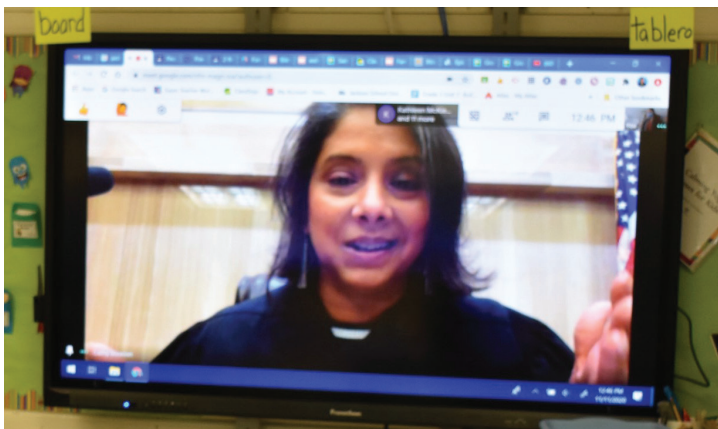


## Teaching “Remotely” Jackson Teachers & Students Can Virtually Do Anything!

**R**emote Academy teacher Mrs. Lynch has completely revamped the traditional “Student of The Week” idea that many of us are accustomed to. Each week, a student from her 4th grade Remote Academy class is selected as the class “Virtual VIP!” Mrs. Lynch has students who would normally attend Rosenauer, Holman and Crawford. This is a great character building and social/emotional activity as all these students are getting to know each other and support the success of all within their class. The “Virtual VIP” completes a poster that is shared during a live Meet and gets to help lead our Daily Meetings during SEL. It has really been motivating and engaging for the class and serves as a perfect way for all to build and strengthen true bonds within the classroom learning environment! ■

## Switlik School 3rd Graders Conduct a LIVE MEET w/ Honorable Judge Cathy Bissoon!

**A**fter studying a unit about Government, Mrs. Gilmore’s 3rd grade class was fortunate enough to virtually meet with the Honorable Judge Cathy Bissoon. Judge Bissoon is a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. She was appointed by President Barack Obama. Previously, she was a United States Magistrate Judge of the same court. Students



were treated to a behind the scenes tour of her courtroom, an in depth discussion about what a Federal Judge does on a daily basis, and insight on her least favorite and favorite parts of her being a judge! Students were enthralled to see a picture of Judge Bissoon with President Barack Obama and even had a chance to witness her use her gavel. It was an amazing opportunity that both Mrs. Gilmore and her 3rd graders will always remember. ■

## The Jackson Education Association & Entire School Community Wish to Thank Those Working on the Front Lines!

**R**ecently the JEA provided 100+ bottles of hand sanitizer to staff at Community Medical Center in Toms River, where our own Holman School Nurse, Ms. DeMatteo, is working to care for the sick and suffering. Additionally we know there are many other Jackson District staff members who are also going above and beyond during these unprecedented times! All of us in the Jackson School District want to give you all those working or volunteering in hospitals, nursing homes, first responders, etc the biggest “Thank You” that we know how. We are all in this together and truly appreciate everything that you do! ■





## Johnson Remote Academy Pumpkin STEM Challenge is a Towering Success!

**E**arlier this year two inspiring teachers from the Johnson School wanted to challenge a virtual class with a pumpkin STEM challenge. The idea of Mrs. Caratta-Scott and Mrs. Barracato was to see which student was able to create the tallest structure that could stand on its own, using only candy pumpkins and toothpicks. Students had to see which design worked best and, if not, how they could improve it. As teachers, we always want our students to understand that it's ok to fail if you are able to learn from it. This was such a great idea to reinforce that concept as all participants were able to learn from trial and error until they completed a standing structure of their own. Even better, they were able to compete with each other to see who had constructed the tallest tower! ■

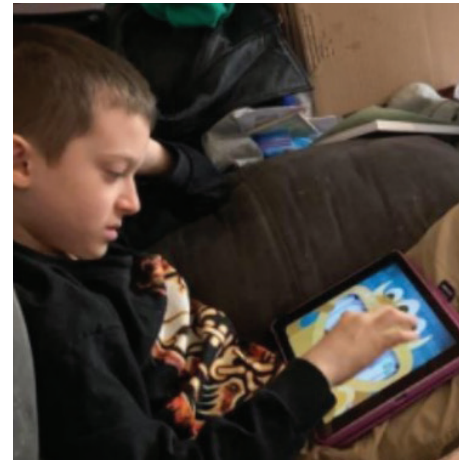


## Holman Students Building Bridges Virtually!!

**T**his Fall, students at Holman Elementary School completed a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) project for our virtual Technology Class, taught by Mrs. Tammy Johnson. Students followed the Engineering Design Process to plan and build a bridge out of anything they had at home! They then tested it for strength with various items. They shared with each other what materials they made their bridge out of, how they tested it, and if they had to make any changes to their plan such as how to make it sturdy enough to keep a pet from toppling it over. Students were so excited to build and show their bridges during virtual computer classes! Even working remotely, we are still able to think outside of the box. ■

## Students Explore Science w/ Ms. Tressito!

**B**ack in the spring of 2020, during our initial descent into remote learning, Johnson School teacher Ms. Tressito treated her remote students to a wonderful study of our galaxy. Even though they weren't together in the classroom, students were able to focus on learning about the solar system, moon phases, and constellations. It was as if the students were on their own ultimate virtual field trip. ■





# Everyday is Unity Day Around the Jackson School District!

Check out these photos below—just a little hint of all the wonderful and dedicated Jackson Education Association staff members that we are lucky to have here in our Jackson Schools community. As we head into 2021, we wish everyone nothing but the best year ahead. Even though we may be apart, we will always come back together to meet the needs of any challenge that comes our way. Our students and local community are so important to us and we will continue to embark on our educational journey together, no matter what the future holds! ■



**STRONGER TOGETHER**



## Jackson Education Association

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Jackson, New Jersey 08527

Lisa Crate, *President*

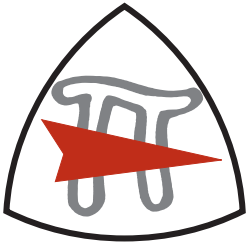
Brian Morgan, *Vice President*

Marcus Villecco, *Treasurer*

Stephanie Healy, *Corresponding Secretary*

Elaine Holleran, *Recording Secretary*

Phone: (732) 367-4954



## Goetz Science Students Create Remote 3-D Cell Masterpieces!

**M**rs. Baker and her 7th Grade Science students created some amazingly detailed 3 dimensional cell models. Once the students created their models, they labeled all the parts before each project was photographed for inclusion into a final PowerPoint slide show, which easily contained 100 different student models. Just take a look at the intricate detail on these few examples below, all of which were created by her student scientists. What a great way to merge the learning of science and art together in a manner where the students can really get hands on in demonstrating their creative abilities. These projects are truly spectacular and demonstrate how learning can be fun when challenged to go above and beyond the textbooks! ■

