

PRIDE *in Education*



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Jackson Liberty Band Outshines the Competition w/Outstanding Performance!

Jackson Memorial held their band competition during the recent fall season season and WOW - it certainly did not disappoint! Although six different school bands performed, it was yet again the amazing Jackson Liberty Band who swept the competition with the highest total score of the night. We are so proud of your success and accomplishments during what was truly a spectacular musical performance! All of our performers within the Jackson School District are so amazing and always make our township so proud! ■



Trunk or Treat Event at Holman Elementary Brings Out All Sorts of Characters!

On the evening of Thursday, October 28, 2021, the Holman Organization of Parents and Educators sponsored a Trunk or Treat event on the Holman School south playground. More than 100 students and their families came to show off their costumes and check out the wonderfully decorated (and sometimes spooky) car trunks. Several Holman School staff members decorated their own trunks and handed out candy, while other Holman JEA members staffed a JEA table and gave out treat bags and other goodies to kids. It was a fun night for all involved! ■



One Town & One Sound in The City of Brotherly Love - We Are All SO PROUD of Our Award Winning Jackson High School Marching Bands!

Our hearts were swelling with pride on this past Thanksgiving morning as we watched our Jackson Memorial and Jackson Liberty Marching Bands unite to march in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade! Band Directors Jason Diaz and Scott Katona along with Associate Director Eric Ficarra and Co Directors Jessie Katona and Brandon Moy worked extremely hard with their talented squads to make this a reality! We are so proud of their accomplishments, but obviously have become even more excited for all their student members to experience what is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. Fortunately our district has gotten used to these moments through our nationally recognized musical programs, which truly bring out the best for all those involved. One Town One Sound, the way it's meant to be! ■



Jackson Elementary School Counselors & Hope Cathedral Give Thanks For Your Generosity During The Holiday Season!

The Elementary School Counselors and Hope Cathedral have a long-standing community service partnership. Through generous donations, Hope Cathedral assists families of the Jackson Schools around the holidays. This year was no different. On 11/22, over 45 families were provided Thanksgiving Blessing Baskets. Each basket included all the “fixins” and a turkey for a bountiful Thanksgiving Day feast to be enjoyed by the families. We are most grateful for our continued partnership and abundant generosity. ■

Pictured: Elementary School Counselors from Switlik - Patti DeBenedetto, Crawford Rodriguez - Anna Yavener, and Rosenauer - Erin Schnorbus



Did You Happen to See These Two Familiar Jackson School District Faces in New York City on Thanksgiving Morning Marching Along The Floats & Down The Avenues?

If you happened to catch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade this year, you may have seen some familiar faces on your television and computer screens. That beloved Ada Twist Scientist balloon featured none other than our very own Goetz Middle School teachers Heather Callahan and Sheri Ellenport, both of whom were chosen as two of the hard working handlers for that beautiful balloon - which is certainly tougher than it looks on television. It's always so much fun to see our district staff and Jackson Education Association members out and about representing our community so well! ■

Jackson Education Association Members Awarded an "Excellence in Education" Award!

Congratulations to Jackson Education Association members Bridgit Lapiere Valgenti and Lauren Komanitsky. They were the recipients of the 2020/2021 Frederick L. Hipp Foundation for Excellence in Education Award for their work on the Healing Library project that is now housed at McAuliffe Middle School. Bridgit and Lauren were awarded a \$3,210 grant to carry out the project. This collaborative project involved the Community Leadership class, Media Specialist, local public library and the community to support the school's Social Emotional Learning Curriculum. Students in the Community Leadership class developed research skills and identified professionals both in and out of school to learn more about mental health and healing. Students selected six mental health topics that affect middle school students. They worked with community members to create Healing Library Kits to provide students with resources and support. Kits include: self-help books, picture books, a young adult book dealing with the topic, an activity to help with the topic, local resources, websites and articles and an activity that provides a coping mechanism. Students created two kits on each topic - one for school and the second for the Public Library. The JEA is so proud of our members who continue to work with and for our students and families to create the best environment and resources possible for a successful school year as well as life beyond the classroom. ■





H.C. Johnson Elementary Host Inaugural “Trunk or Treat” Fall Event!

The JEA was proud to support Johnson’s First Annual Trunk or Treat. It was absolutely spooktacular and we LOVED seeing all our students enjoying the beautiful afternoon with their families! You all looked wonderful and we certainly had a ton of fun! ■

Veterans Day Community Service Project at Switlik Elementary!

Veterans Day is the perfect time to discuss with children that one of the ways American citizens show their patriotism, or love for one’s country, is by serving in the Armed Forces. Through a school-wide community service project, Switlik students learned about the importance of our men and women in the military and showed their gratitude for their service. During Art class, with Ms. Langer and Mrs. Quick, the children designed beautiful cards with symbols that represent the United States of America and have special significance to our veterans. Cards included 3-D poppies, American flags, bald eagles, and torn paper red, white, and blue hearts. During their Library Media classes with Ms. Palmé and Mrs. Brenner, students read about Veterans Day and wrote heartfelt letters and notes on the inside of their cards. Students learned and practiced how to write a friendly letter, and worked on their revising and editing skills. ■



Memorial High School Spirit in Full Force During 2021 Homecoming Night!

The halls were decorated and our student Homecoming nominees looked fabulous. The entire community at Jackson Memorial was pumped up for Homecoming this weekend! It was a perfect evening to show our school spirit and promote “Jaguar Pride” throughout our school! We would especially like to give a big shoutout to the PTN for supplying the food for the homecoming dance and to Mr. Joseph Pienkowski, our student council advisor. Without them and all the students involved with Student council, this whole spirit week and homecoming would not have been as successful and fun. Great job to everyone and thanks for all your support! ■





Switlik Elementary Welcomes The LEAD U Crew!

On November 9th & 10th, Switlik welcomed back the LEAD U Crew for an amazing outdoor assembly! LEAD U is a positive group of teaching artists who creatively engage, educate, inspire, and empower learners of all ages to find the leaders within themselves. Students and staff experienced the importance of being kind, respectful, resilient, and a good friend during each grade's Empower Hour! ■



The OCHD Promotes Healthy Habits at Rosenauer Elementary!

Rosenauer Elementary was so excited to welcome the Ocean County Health Department back into our classrooms during our current school year. We started out with kindergarten handwashing lessons in November and will continue on in December with nutrition lessons in first grade. Students will be taught about proper washing techniques to better combat germs and also get a little knowledge about healthy food choices which is so important! ■





Liberty Boys Basketball Program Puts Full Court Press on Childhood Cancer!

For National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month the Liberty Boys Basketball Team adorned their campus with signs and gold ribbons to support this wonderful cause. But the team wanted to do more for the cause, said Coach Don Connor. So the team members came up with the idea of placing empty water jugs around the school for a week, and seeing what type of money could be raised. It was dubbed “Change for Cancer.” The hope was, the student body and staff of Liberty would donate any loose change they may have had. Connor stated the original goal was to raise \$400. To the surprise of the many, the drive netted over \$1,000. Coach Connor and his players could not thank the students and staff enough for their generosity. “We just wanted to do something, outside of the gym. We were looking for a cause that would benefit the community. Our staff and students are absolutely incredible.

They made this extremely special!” All of the proceeds raised by the Change for Cancer drive, were donated to the Chase Ryan Olsen Foundation. Chase was a student in Jackson, who succumbed to Cancer at the age of 9 in 2009. Connor along with Liberty Principal Geoff Brignola and members of the team presented Maureen Olsen, mother of Chase, a check for \$1,011.74 recently in front of the Liberty Bell on campus. Mrs. Olsen did not have enough words to thank everyone on behalf of her family and the foundation, but Connor did. “I am so proud to work in a school with such amazing teachers and staff and as for the student body who was amazing in promoting and donating to this cause, makes me so proud to say “I am a Liberty Lion!” As for the future of the Change for Cancer drive, Connor was adamant that this is only the beginning. He would like to make this an annual fundraiser, and even hinted that he was going to seek out other schools in the district to participate in this wonderful cause in the years to come. Connor summed it up best, “Anytime you can bring young people together for a common cause is a special thing.” We are so proud of the students of Liberty High School! ■

Students from Goetz Builders Club Volunteer with Clean Ocean Action for Local “Beach Sweeps” Community Clean Up!

Taking time from their busy schedules didn’t deter the “Builders” from Goetz Middle School from getting their hands dirty. Realizing the importance of our environment, students did a morning “Beach Sweep” to collect all types of trash and harmful materials that continue to be left behind along our beautiful beaches and shoreline. Thank you all for your service and for showing all of us what it means to be student leaders! ■





The Jackson Education Association Recognizes All Those Who Served From Our Local Community!

In honor of Veterans Day and to thank all of those who serve our country, all of us in the Jackson Education Association and Jackson School District would like to honor and thank all veterans, past and present, and thank them for their service. We want to recognize each and every one of you for both your service and commitment to our country. Please take a moment to check out this beautiful Veterans Day multi-angle “Agamograph,” created by students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade Enrichment classes at Goetz Middle School. ■

School Spirit Celebrated at Holman School!

During the month of October, Holman School observed several different theme days in an effort to strengthen character and to promote positive decision making. The Week of Respect, Safe Schools Week, and Red Ribbon Week were all celebrated throughout the month. Staff and students participated in different school spirit days as reminders of good choices and confident attitudes. Some examples of school spirit days were team jersey day, tie-dye day for positive vibes, hat day, superhero day, and Dress to Impress on School Picture Day. Even the school mascot, Jax the Bobcat, showed his school spirit and welcomed Holman students back for a great school year! ■



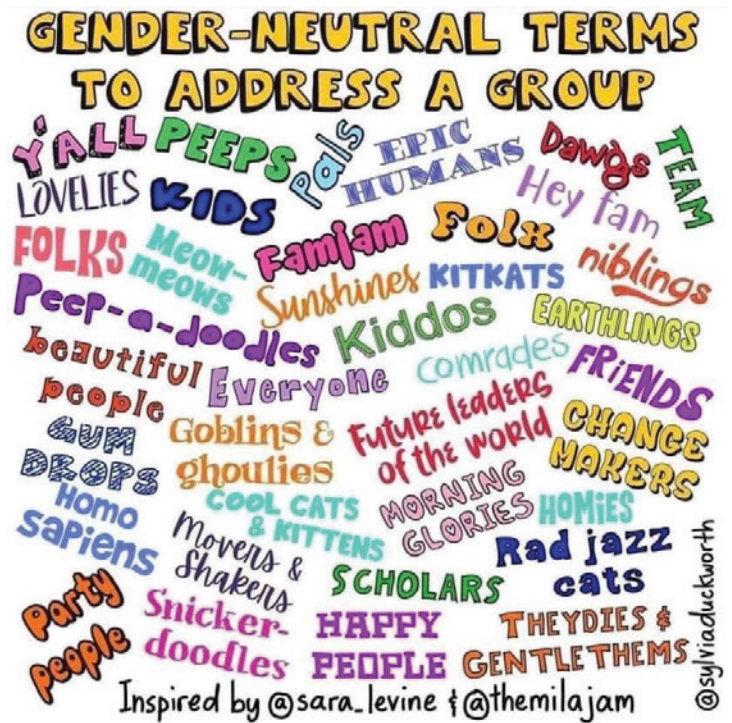
Goetz Builders Treat Our Troops w/Sweet Surprises!

The JEA would like to send a huge shout out and thank you to the Goetz Builders Club. They ran a “Treats for Troops” Halloween candy give back and were able to collect a little over 200 lbs of candy to send to our troops. Great job everyone! ■



Rosenauer Teaching Chef & Student Assistants Make & Bake Connections Between Subject Based Learning & Practical Life Skills!

It's always such a pleasure to meet a teacher who can inspire a classroom full of students to learn in multiple ways. That's exactly what we recently saw during a visit to Mr. Jackson's 5th grade class at Rosenauer Elementary School. In addition to their regular learning lessons, Mr. Jackson also develops and demonstrates a special cooking lesson each week with his students, touching on math, science, cooking safety and social skills topics throughout. During this visit - we enjoyed the process of homemade tacos with cheese and salsa. Students absolutely LOVE this time with their teacher, learning skills that they bring home with them and share with their families. ■



McAuliffe Students & Staff Show Their "True Colors" to Promote Love & Kindness to All!

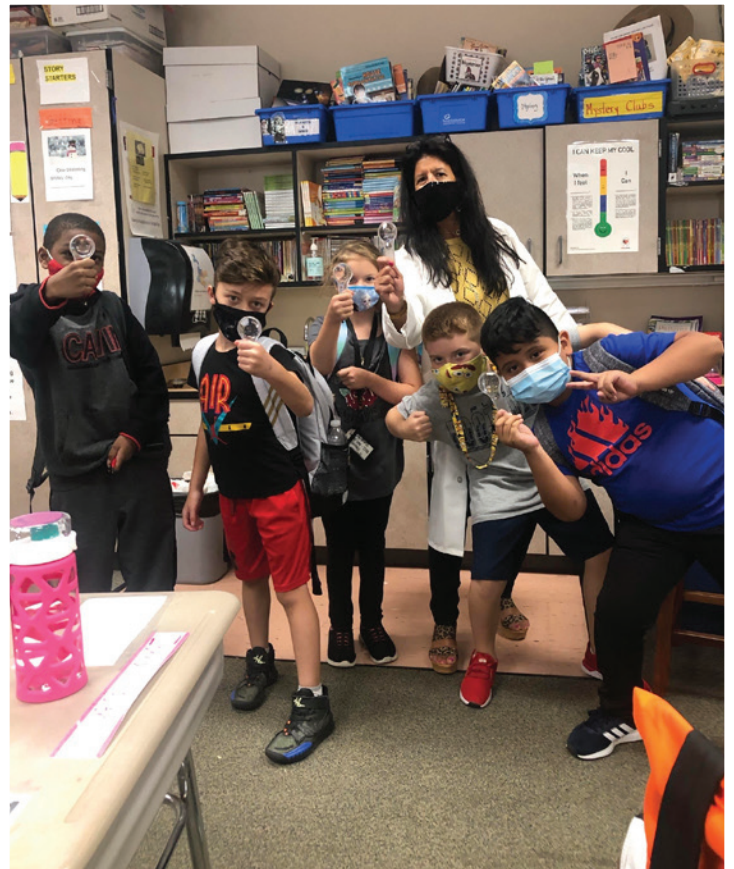
McAuliffe had their first True Colors Club meeting in over a year and a half 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷 What a great turnout it was!!! We'd like to give a shout out to staff members Erica Lynn, Lauren Komanitsy and Sherry Anne for making this possible and helping us all value every student and all of their stories. Just a little reminder that there are so many creative ways to address both our students and those all around us. This is especially important when meeting someone for the first time. A simple phrase such as "My Friends" when speaking to a group of students really becomes a perfect ice-breaker to help build respect and trust. What will you try? ■

McAuliffe School Connects w/Parents During "Family Connection Night!"

On Tuesday, November 2nd, we held The Family Connection: Resources for a Successful School Year at Christa McAuliffe Middle School. Families who attended spent time in the cafeteria learning how to navigate our school web page, how to use Google Classroom, how to use Genesis to check grades and were supported in signing up for parent-teacher conferences.

The families also had time to navigate eleven stations set up in the IMC. At two of the stations, they were able to meet with representatives from both Fulfill NJ: the food bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties and Ocean Health Initiative about medical services they offer. They had the opportunity to

speak with teachers about Intervention and Referral Services, the Everyday Applications course, how to interpret ACCESS test scores, and learn about library resources both at the school level and within the Ocean County library system. At other stations, parents were given the opportunity to apply for free and reduced lunch, hear about our School Home Association, shop our Vintage Shoppe, send a candy gram to their child and even complete a request for their child's locker to be decorated for their birthday. To close the evening, families made their way back up to the cafeteria where each family left with amazing gift baskets. A big shout out to our NJHS, Builders Club, Student Council and Yearbook Club for their generous donations. Last, but certainly not least, everyone who attended the event left with their own Panera boxed meal donated by the JEA. This event could not have been such a success without student volunteers from Jackson Liberty's NHS and AP Spanish classes as well as students from NJHS and Builders Club at McAuliffe. We look forward to making this an annual event to continue to assist parents in connecting with our school and to gain the knowledge and powerful resources to help make their children successful students! ■



Crawford Kids Transform into Scientists to Magnify & Discover Those Hidden Details!

Students in Mrs. Alkalay's and Ms. McLaughlin's 3rd grade class at Crawford Elementary took the science studies a little more clinically as they learned about and used their magnifying glasses to see the fine details of the rear portion on a penny to better see President Abraham Lincoln sitting inside the Lincoln Memorial. They used droplets of water to cleanse & magnify the image! Science really is amazing and all but our students & staff are even more so. These are the moments that make school and learning so much fun! ■



Elms Student Green Team & Aquaponics Garden Teaching Us About Sustainability!

The Elms Student Green Team is up and running! Fourth and third grade students are committed to sharing information about energy conservation in our building, as well as in their own homes. This group will work together using the emPowered Schools platform to research, plan, and deliver environmental insight. They will learn about natural resources, lighting efficiency, and ways to keep the building properly heated and cooled without wasting energy. This is going to be a great expansion of the well known “Aquaponics Garden” that’s been inside our school for some time. Students creating and caring for gardens and life during the cold winter months is such a valuable experience with them that will truly allow all to become better humans as we use our knowledge and new technologies to create and preserve a better tomorrow! ■



McAuliffe Concert Choir Performs Live in The City of Brotherly Love!

In case you missed it, the Concert Choir from McAuliffe Middle School was recently invited to perform “What a Wonderful World” with the mass youth choir LIVE at the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade. We are so proud of our students and are grateful for their director Alyssa Morgan and all of her hard work! Another example of how the arts really bring out the best in our students within the Jackson School District! ■



McAuliffe School Welcomes Their Students with Fall Fun!

To showcase school spirit, Student Activities and Student Council sponsored Fall Fun Days for each grade level. Under the direction of the advisors, Jerri Parlow and Jaime Hesnan, students competed in events, and grade level winners were determined. Events included: Balloon Pop, Pumpkin Sweep, Sack Race, Hula Hoop, Candy Corn Toss, Halloween Egg and Spoon, and Skeleton Relay. The members of the Student Council joined the classroom teachers as coaches and encouraged their team to display sportsmanship as well as win. The McAuliffe lion made an appearance to cheer on the students. Students bonded during this safe and positive activity and cannot wait until there is another one! Congrats to our Winning Teams listed below.

Grade 6

1st: Mr. Caruso's "The Crushers"

2nd: Mr. Mathew and Mr. Bradley's "The Goblins"

Sportsmanship: Mrs. Casasnova and Mrs. Feinen's "Pink Panthers"

Grade 7

1st - Ms. Bischoff's "The Night Owlzzz"

2nd: Mr. Gliatta and Ms. Chinery's "Slaying Sloths" AND Mrs. Connor and Mr. Vaughn "The Historical Index"

Sportsmanship: Ms. Strizki and Mrs. Hamman's "The All-Stars"

Grade 8

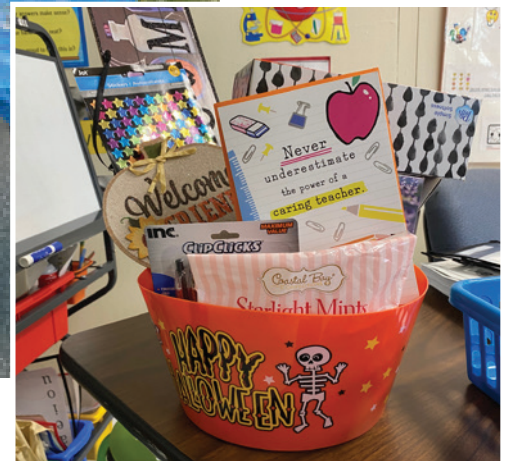
1st: Ms. Pecelet's "Gravediggers"

2nd: Mrs. Parlow, Mrs. Hesnan, and Mrs. DeMaio's "Phantoms"

Sportsmanship: Mrs. Rose's "Rancheros" ■

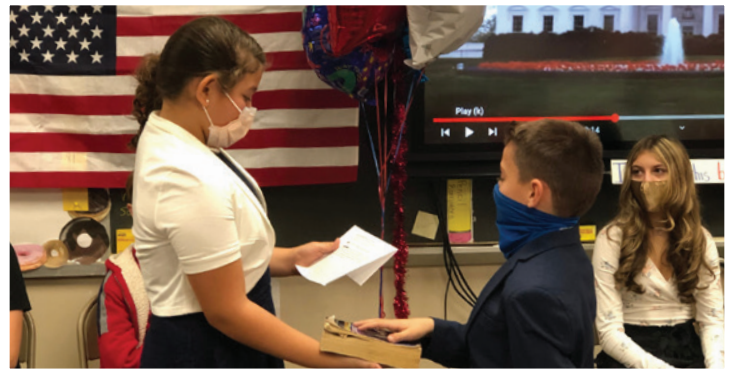
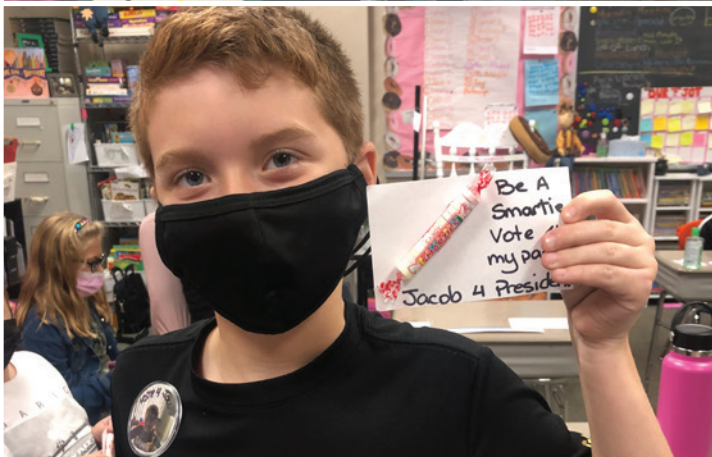
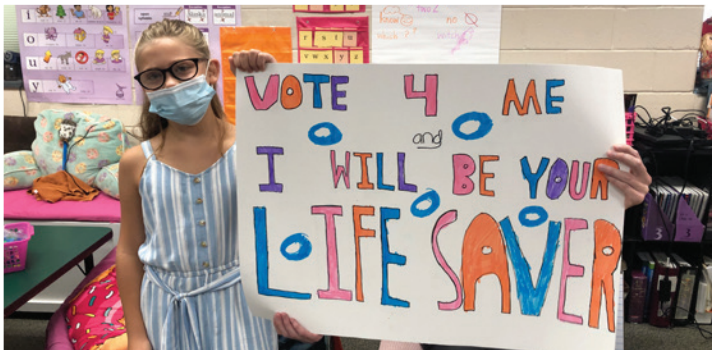
Switlik Students Exemplify Their Bucket Filling Spirit Year After Year!

Switlik School has been a Bucket Filling school for many years. A Bucket Filler is someone who uses acts of kindness and love to make another person feel better. Two Switlik friends, second grader Abby (Mrs. Wardell's class) and third grader Peyton (Mrs. Slomin's class), both showed what it truly means to be a "Bucket Filler." They got together one weekend and set-up a lemonade stand, however they weren't looking to make money to buy toys for themselves. Instead, they set out to raise funds to buy school supplies for their own teachers and classmates. Their selfless efforts resulted in two beautiful baskets, one for each of their teachers and classmates. Thank you for filling so many buckets! ■



Crawford Students Campaigning in Room A212!

Students in room A212 are learning about local government and the election process first hand! They had their primaries for Class President back in October. The candidates read their speeches in front of the class to best explain why they want to be our Class President and represent us. All candidates “campaigning” for 2 weeks prior to the final election. Nominees Jackson Drumm, Jacob Kacicz, Oliver Oliveres, Sophia Casias, and Nicholas Sarbone did a great job campaigning with slogans, posters, candy, pens, pencils, and various treats! After primaries, 2 candidates Nicholas Sarbone and Jacob Kacicz were voted to be our final Presidential Candidates. They chose their Vice Presidents, Sophia Casias and Gavin Dunham. Good luck to both parties as you represent the best of us and serve us all well! ■



This Just In ~ Breaking News at Crawford, Room A212!

Thank you, JEA and PRIDE for sponsoring the Inauguration Ceremony that took place at Crawford Elementary at the end of November as our NEWLY elected President, Vice President, and Speaker of The House were sworn into their elected roles! Former Class Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Speakers of the House were invited back to the swearing in ceremony for this year's President Jacob Kacicz, Vice President Gavin Dunham, and Speaker of the House Jackson Drumm. Thank you to our past 4th-8th graders: Shannon Bradley, Olivia Liodice, Charlotte Fatovic, Daniel Calabrese, Holden Concord, Samantha Barth, Michael Bittar, Amanda Cerino & 12th grader at Liberty Tyler Rosofsky! ■

Liberty Family & Consumer Science Classes Preparing Our Students to Succeed in So Many Wonderful Ways!

The trades are alive and well at Jackson Liberty High School. Ms. Zenerovitz, teacher of the Basic Foods & Nutrition portion of the Family & Consumer Science course at Liberty HS, works with students each day to teach so much more than just cooking and baking! Students learn kitchen safety, healthy food habits, how to work together cooperatively, and so much more! Many students come into class not knowing how to wash dishes let alone cook a meal, so the skills that are learned in this class will last for a lifetime! But Liberty kids learn more than just what happens inside a kitchen. Mrs. Lackay, teacher of the Fashion Technology portion of the Family & Consumer Science course at Liberty HS, also works with students each day to teach so much more than just sewing and design! These students are acquiring skills that translate easily into other areas in their

lives including math, history, business and art. When people talk about how the trades “need to be brought back to our high schools,” we’re proud to say that Jackson never said goodbye to them! In fact, we are all recognizing that these skills are truly the backbone of what makes our country so great. All industries, from a small business to a major corporation rely on the talent of ideas of young adults just like we have here in the Jackson School District and local community! These classes are packed each and every semester with students wanting to learn new skills that they can take with them into their everyday lives as well as careers in the future. We are proud of the teachers who take the time each day to work with our students to help them learn these skills that will genuinely enhance their lives! We are grateful for all of the Family & Consumer Science teachers in the district. Their role in our community and in the lives of our students is so important and so appreciated! ■

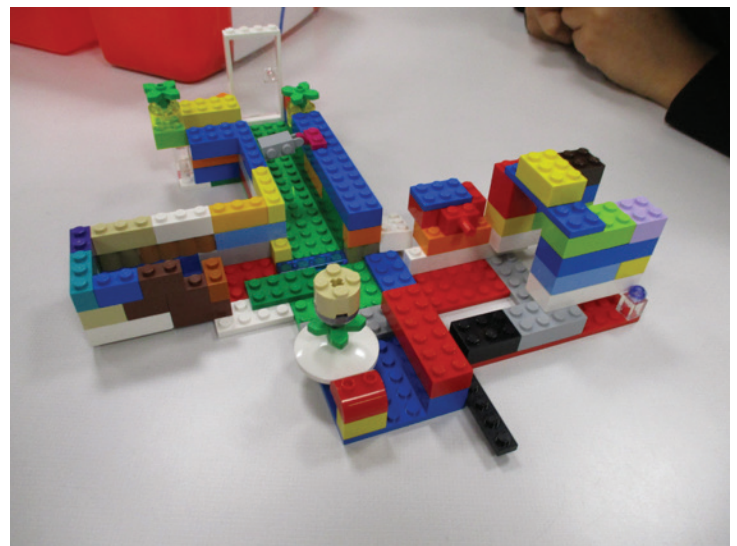


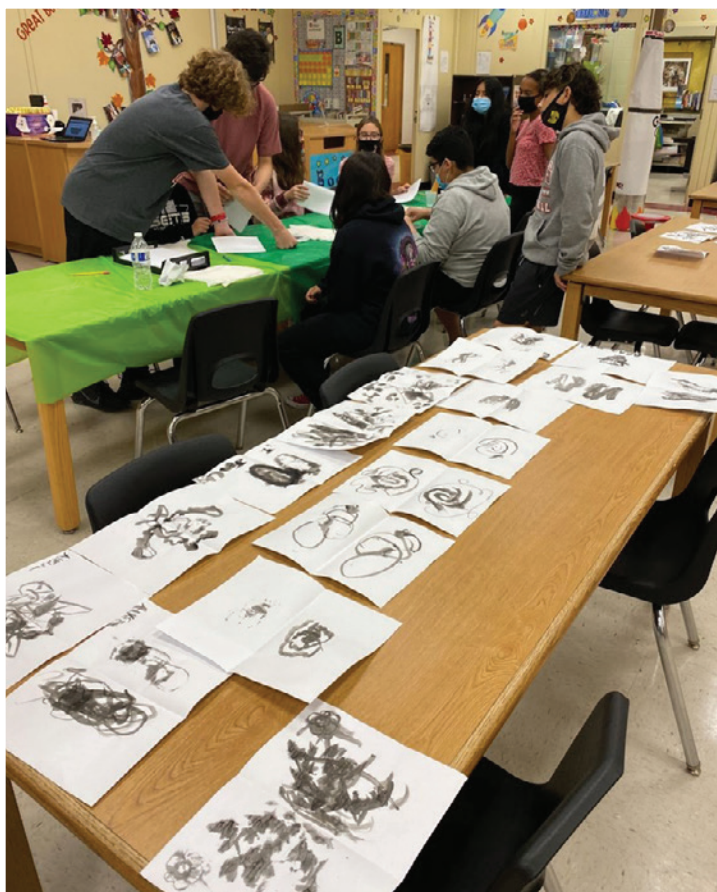
Johnson Students “Connecting The Dots, One Dot at a Time!”

Johnson School students show off their talents with a celebration of International Dot Day: a day to connect, collaborate, and create. It’s also a great day to foster self-expression, which is apparent here as we look at the wonderful artwork displayed front and center inside their hallway! ■

LEGO Challenge in the Holman Lab

In the Holman STEM lab, students in grades 3-5, were challenged to create a maze with Legos, using the Engineering Design Process. They worked together as a team to Ask what the problem was, Imagine a solution, make a Plan, Create it, try it and then Improve it. Many included themes, traps, dead ends, tricks, an entrance and an exit. They did an amazing job! ■





A Most Unusual & Innovative Library & Literacy Team Teaching Learning Activity Captivates 8th Graders at Goetz Middle School!

Goetz librarian Jackie Daton collaborated with Literacy teacher Kelly Pillis and her 8th grade students to present a “Flowers for Algernon” event to 8th grade Literacy students. Mrs. Pillis’s students escorted their peers to four stations where they learned about tests that the main character, Charlie, underwent in the story. Student presenters shared information about the Rorschach Test and learners had a chance to delve deeper into the story as they created their own inkblots to take home, competed in a maze completion race, and analyzed student-created inkblots. ■

Goetz Staff & JEA Members Continue to Promote Respect & Unity!

Recently the staff at Goetz Middle School held some special events for their students and staff, including “Respect Week” & “Unity Day.” The goal is to allow all within our building to realize that although we are all different and unique, we need to support and respect one another to make our community a tight knit and loving environment that treats all with kindness and respect! Great lessons for all of us and we’re so proud of the work that all of our Jackson School District staff continue to do every single day! ■





JMHS Senior Class Members “Paint Their Spots” For the 2021-22 School Year!

One of the greatest rewards throughout our educational journey are those fun events and privileges during our senior year of high school. The current Memorial class of 2022 was able to understand this prior to September as they were allowed to continue that tradition of painting their own individual parking spots. It’s always so much fun to check out their colorful artwork and see the talented ideas that they had. Best of luck everyone and congratulations on all of your current and future successes! ■



World Language Club Students at Memorial Learn About Pumpkin Carving & Design!

The wonderful teaching team of Jackson Memorial High School World Language Teachers and “Class of 2022” Advisors Nancy Mousavi and Anna Cafara recently used expressive art to teach students about various cultures and customs, which specifically focused on the art of carving and the use of color & design. The class began with a wonderful and informative presentation on the customs of carving and painting pumpkins in various cultures. Of course they took it a step further and allowed their class to actually paint their own unique and individual designs using their techniques of color, lines, and overall expressive thought processes. ■





McAuliffe Middle School “Runs for Vets” Tradition Continues in 2021!

On Monday November 8th, McAuliffe Middle School held its annual “Run for Vets” event! Though it may have looked a little different than past years, each and every student still had the opportunity to participate in a ‘fun run’ to honor our veterans as well as participate in virtual classroom visits from local veterans. This tradition stretches over 20 years, and we are proud to play a small role in reminding our students about the importance of remembering and honoring our veteran population - who are truly the heroes and best representatives of Jackson Township! ■

The U.S. Department of Education Names Holman Elementary School a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School!

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona recognized 325 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2021. Holman School is one of 9 schools recognized from New Jersey and was the only school recognized from Ocean County for 2021. The recognition is based on a school’s overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. ■

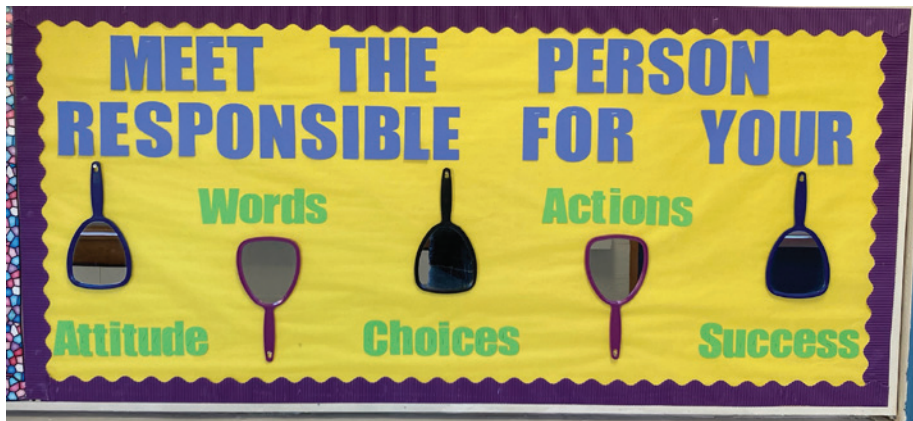
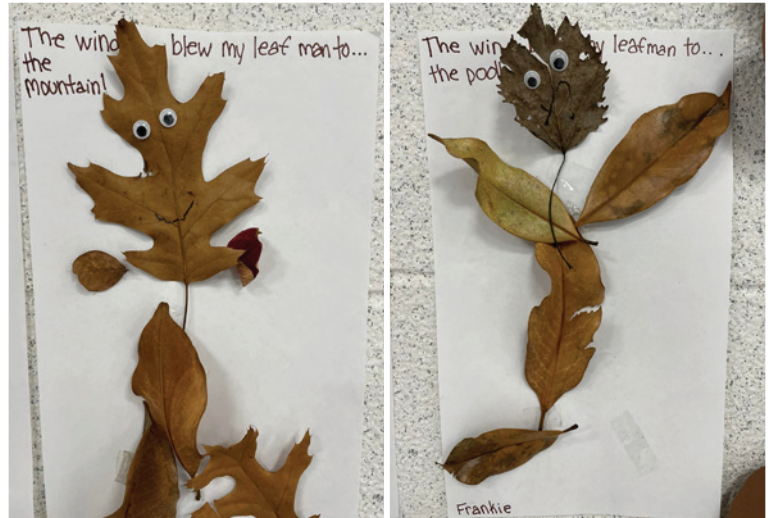


JEA Members “Making Strides” & Walk For a Cure!

As we proudly do every year, your local Jackson Education Association continues to fundraise and generate support in the ongoing fight against cancer. Back in October, JEA members and their families participated in walking for a cure at the annual Making Strides Event, held in Point Pleasant Beach. We are so proud of our ever growing team of JEA members for their compassion and dedication in supporting the Making Strides campaign. This is a battle we will never give up on and continue to participate in yearly. This year we are proud to announce that our Jackson Education Association “Making Strides Team” Raised \$2,969 through their efforts. Thanks to all for your support and remember to always “GO. FIGHT. CURE.” ■

The Falling Leaves Are Blowing All Around Elms, But Where Did They All Land?

When you walk around Elms, both inside the hallways and out on the grounds, you can certainly see why they are so passionate about caring for the environment. Nothing is left to waste, not even a falling leaf as we head into shortened days and colder winter temps. Such a great opportunity was had to use natural resources and infuse into a creative writing and art project. Where did all those leaves go? Well you really need to check out a few of these student projects to see how some went to relax at the beach, others up high on a mountain, and even a few went back into the past and jumped into a swimming pool. These may be some of our favorite student projects that we have seen so far this year! ■



Jackson Schools Stress The Importance of a Healthy School Climate For All Learners!

As per the State Department of Education, during the month of October, school districts all across New Jersey are required to recognize the importance of developing and maintaining positive school climates, provide students with a safe and supportive environment, and encourage academic success and increased social and emotional competence. At Stanley Switlik Elementary School, the month began with our annual “Week of Respect” kick-off event (October 4-8), followed next by “Safe Schools Week” (October 18-22) and closing out the month was the all important “Red Ribbon Week” (October 25-29) where we show how special our students and staff really are! During each week’s observance, students and staff participated in themed days, classroom discussions and activities to bring attention and awareness to our unified commitment as a school community to make and support choices that lead to safe, successful, and healthy lives! ■



Elms Aquaponics Program Continues Teaching Our Elementary Student Scientists About Growth & Sustainability!

Under the leadership of the wonderful teaching teams at Elms Elementary, students are already well into another successful year of their Aquaponics learning program where systems are developed, cared for, and maintained all year long. Check out the recent dedication of Ms. Sernotti’s students as they all work to problem solve and teach us all how important it is to be practicing environmentalists. Great job everyone and we can’t wait to see what you will come up with next! ■



A Day in the Life: School Nurse Edition— Inside Our Jackson Schools!

An Editorial From Lisa Crate, President - Jackson Education Association

As we enter yet another school year in a time that once again can be showcased as ‘a year like no other,’ let’s take a moment to consider the incredibly important role our school nurses play in the lives of our students. I could go on and on and on about Covid and contact tracing and dealing with state health agencies and everything else that goes along with keeping students safe and healthy during a pandemic, but I don’t think that would properly showcase what it means to be a school nurse and how important the profession truly is, especially now.

I had the opportunity to spend time with three school nurses this week; one at the elementary level, one in middle school and one in high school. Although each nurse faced different challenges throughout the day, the reaction to students coming into their office was always the same: a kind welcome and concerned questioning about the students’ needs. Every. Single. Time. Concern and compassion were always in the forefront, and every student knew that as they entered. You may think to yourself, what is it that a school nurse does that is so important? How hard could the job be? The truth of the matter is, they do more than you could have ever thought possible, and then they go ahead and do more than that.

Consider just some of the responsibilities of the school nurse:

- Review all student charts and check for immunization compliance
- Administer medications to students as needed on a daily basis
- Develop and share individual health plans for students with diabetes, asthma, seizures and life threatening allergies
- Train people to use epipens and glucagon in emergency situations
- Manage a building level Emergency Response Team (Janet’s Law)
- Conduct Emergency Drills
- Maintain AED (Automated External Defibrillator)
- Complete Health Screenings
- Process Sports Physicals



- Help with IEP assessments for students
- Drug and alcohol assessments
- Coordinate outreach and referral to community resources, dental clinics, food pantry, etc.

All of this is in addition to creating a caring environment that students can go to when they need a place to rest or eat or to just have a moment alone. During my visits I witnessed preschoolers getting weighed and measured, high school students coming in for ice packs and encouragement, and middle school students with forms and questions and concerns about being able to play winter sports. Banged heads, bruised knees, stomach aches and more, our school nurses see and do everything possible to support the health and wellbeing of not only our students but our staff, as well. We depend on them more than can ever be imagined and we are grateful for their service and dedication. They are just one more example of some of the unsung heroes in our schools, and we can’t thank them enough for all that they do.

***To all of our local Jackson families & surrounding communities—HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON! Enjoy your time together and stay safe & healthy! We can not wait to see you when we all return in 2022 because we are all “Better Together!!!” ■



Jackson Education Association

55 N. County Line Road

Jackson, New Jersey 08527

Lisa Crate, *President*

Brian Morgan, *1st Vice President*

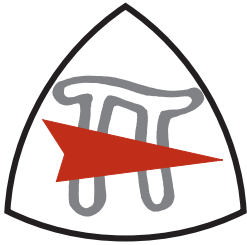
Joseph Lux, *2nd Vice President*

Marcus Villecco, *Treasurer*

Stephanie Healy, *Corresponding Secretary*

Elaine Holleran, *Recording Secretary*

Phone: (732) 367-4954



Switlik Summer Readers Love to Study & Learn All Year Long!

Just like throwing a baseball or swimming, reading is a skill that improves with practice. Students at Switlik School were reading all summer long and building their reading muscles! For every 5 books that students read and logged, they were entered into a raffle. 2 lucky students at each grade level were chosen at random from the entries received. The winning students received a \$10 gift certificate to spend at the Fall Scholastic Book Fair. Congratulations to all who participated! The lucky winners were 1st graders Justin S and Luna G, 2nd graders Alessia B and Ryan D, 3rd graders Eric M and Sophia G, 4th graders Nathaniel Mand and Isabella O and 5th graders Emily M and Aiden R. Great job to ALL our summer readers for their hard work during what was certainly a well deserved break from both their classroom and virtual learning! ■