

PRIDE *in Education*



Volume 16 Number 1

December 2023



The Jackson Education Association Supports Parent-Teacher Conference Week!

During the month of November the Jackson School District held their annual Parent-Teacher Conference Week and as always, the Jackson Education Association was ready to welcome all with a few treats, useful giveaways and even a few educational pamphlets that provide some very important and valuable information for all. We hope everyone enjoyed a little personal time with our amazing and creative Jackson staff members as they continue to inspire and educate the minds of all students they teach. ■



Lucy Holman Elementary Hosts Pre-School Family Night!

Many of our Holman Pre-School families recently attended our school Family Night. Families learned new skills and received important information about resources available in school and throughout town. Thank you to the JEA members who supported and hosted the event. We are grateful for the NJEA PRIDE in Public Education grant that assisted in funding the evening. ■



Jackson Liberty Leadership Academy Creates Active Partnerships for All Students!

Since COVID, students have had a lack of connection and proper coping strategies. The purpose of the Leadership Academy is to provide students specific skills to positively impact their lives and their communities. Areas to be addressed include leadership theory, group dynamics, project management, team building, conflict resolution, communication, SMART goal setting, and collaborative strategies.

The academy is adaptable across various student populations grades 9-12. The Leadership Academy prepares students not only for active participation in school but also in their community. It provides necessary information, experiences, and opportunities that will benefit students in secondary and post-secondary environments as they follow their chosen education or career path. Students solve relevant and current school and community issues by working collaboratively and independently on real-world tasks such as needs assessments of the students, project planning, project implementation, and presentations. Academy participants will meet once or twice a month during common lunch in a dedicated space and then are expected to “practice” their skills with freshmen groups throughout the year. ■

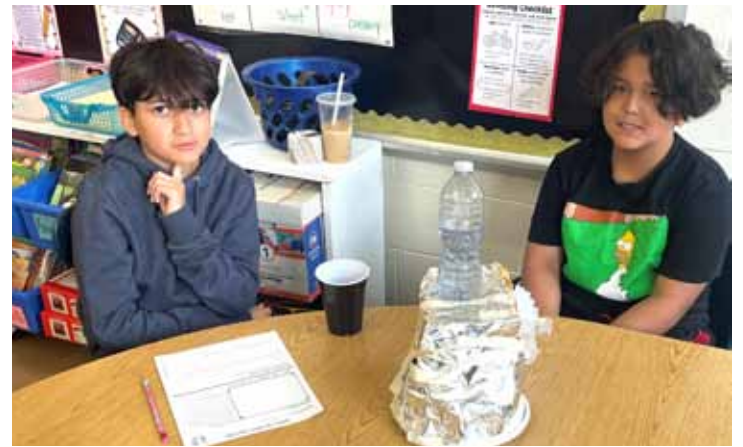


Elms Elementary Strives to “Be the Aloha You Wish to See in the World!”

The Staff at Elms Elementary school came together this Halloween in an effort to support educators and their classrooms that were affected by the destruction caused in Maui by this summer’s wildfires, which was something close to our hearts as educators. Although a serious theme, we did incorporate our school spirit and had fun. Matching hula costumes were worn and included a custom made shirt that really captured the attention of all. The best part was that in purchasing the shirt, a monetary donation was made to support this cause. We are so proud to say that over \$400 was raised to help support our fellow educators. Great job everyone! ■

Lucy N. Holman Enrichment Students Design & Build During Thanksgiving Challenge!

Holman School 5th grade enrichment students tackled a 30 minute “Protect The People” STEM Thanksgiving Challenge, in which students had to design and build shelters only using the given materials in their groups. The shelters had to be large enough to house both a Pilgrim and Wampanoag person, contain an exit, and also be strong enough to protect the people from hazards such as water and weight of snow. Mrs. Such and Mrs. Majors guided their students through this successful, engaging and fun challenge. ■



Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary Continues Their Wonderful “Giving Tree” Initiative!

As is our tradition, Crawford-Rodriguez had a large giving tree for those in need. They gathered names of students and had their parents give us things they needed and wanted for the holidays. They hung about 80 tags in the main office for staff to take and purchase the gifts. Jackson Elks along with some other places in the community were kind enough to take some tags as well. ■

H.C. Johnson Elementary Fall Fun Events Energize School Community All Season Long!

Fall was in full effect at Johnson Elementary School. Staff and students embraced the changing season by getting into the spirit of October. To kick off the month, Johnson celebrated Week of Respect, Safe Schools Week and Red Ribbon Week all in the month of October. The purpose of these spirit weeks was to raise student awareness to being respectful, practicing school safety and making healthy choices.

To honor these important events, staff and students were encouraged to participate by dressing up for themed spirit days such as crazy hair day, sports jersey day, and pajama day. The second annual Johnson staff pumpkin decorating contest was held this month. Staff were invited to get creative and transform a pumpkin into a vision of their imagination. They really brought their "A" game, take a look at some of the pumpkin masterpieces that were created. The pumpkins were then all displayed at the PTA sponsored Trunk or Treat night for the students. This event had a great turn out and was a huge success.



It wasn't all pumpkins and Halloween though. Johnson's 4th grade students were hard at work on their Science Design Challenge this month. Students were tasked with creating a car out of foam cups and straws. The challenge was to find a way to have it move without pushing or pulling it. Check out some pictures of these inventive 4th graders designing their cars.

Finally, Johnson ended the month with their highly anticipated Halloween parade. Staff and students proudly paraded outside around Johnson showing off their fun and festive costumes. Check out some of the awesome costumes!! ■



Christa McAuliffe Middle School Had a “Fall of Fun” Field Day To Promote Teamwork!

October 16th and 17th marked the Third Annual “Fall Fun Day” sponsored by the Student Activities and Student Council. This year added an additional challenge as McAuliffe implemented the House System and each student and staff member was assigned a den, Aryo, Artan, Simha, and Shir. Under the direction of the advisors, Jerri Parlow and Jaime Hesnan, students competed in events, and the den winners were determined. Fall Fun Day consisted of a variety of relay races and included the 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 even made an appearance to cheer on the students. By the end of the competition, Dens Shir and Simha were declared the winners, led by Kelly Nieduzak. Team Spirit winners were homerooms 108 and 213. Students bonded during this safe and positive activity and cannot wait for the Last Splash event which will be held in spring of 2024. We can not wait to see that when it happens. ■



Switlik Hosts Jackson Police D.A.R.E. Program to Discuss Halloween Safety!

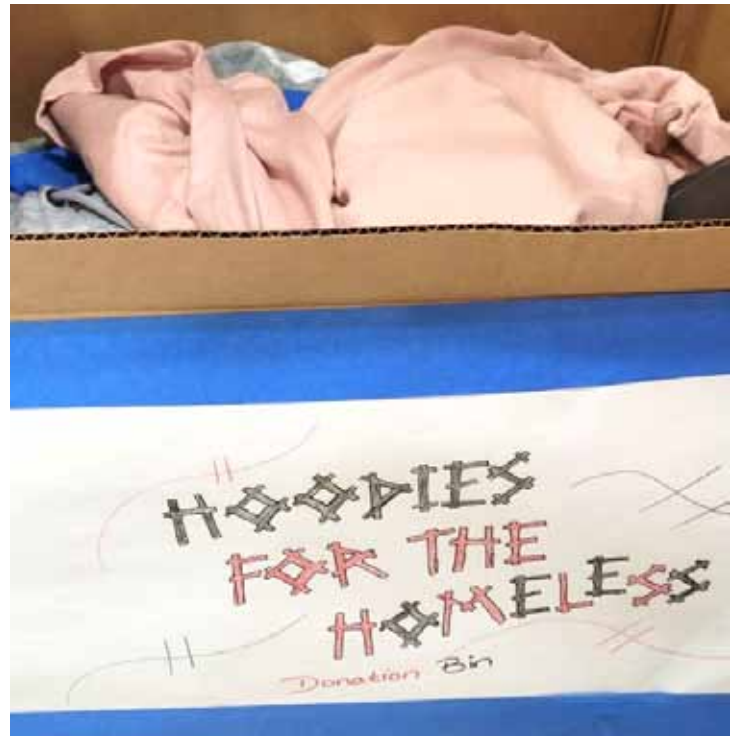
Switlik is so happy to welcome our local Jackson Police officers in for DARE presentations, especially a very important and informative one regarding Halloween Safety! All grade levels were able to listen and participate in various activities that focused on being safe while having fun at any Trunk or Treat event, school dance, or just a traditional “trick

or treat” around their neighborhood. Since all of our students are what we treasure the most, we are passionate about their safety and in teaching them tips and methods to ensuring that they stay as such. Thank you to the Jackson Police Department for always being visible around our parking lots, bus lanes, and especially inside our schools on a constant basis. ■



Switlik Elementary Annual 2nd Grade Led Thanksgiving Parade Brings Us All Together!

Our amazing team of 2nd Grade classrooms inspired our entire community of students and staff with a very fun and interactive holiday tradition which we call the "Switlik Holiday in Our Hallways Thanksgiving Day Parade!" The second grade students studied the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade and then created their own unique and creative balloons, which they were so proud to hold up high in the air during our school wide celebration prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. We love seeing their creations, and they love to see the excitement of every Switlik student who lined up around the hallways to appropriately cheer them on. Great job everyone and we look forward to this annual event again in November of 2024. ■



Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary School Celebrates World Kindness Day!

Crawford-Rodriguez celebrated World Kindness Day on November 13th. Leading up to this day, Crawford-Rodriguez students collected donations of Hoodies for the Homeless. They were donated on the 13th as their World Kindness Contribution. A video was also posted on the morning announcements to explain the day! Staff and students wore their cardigans to celebrate World Kindness Day, in the spirit of Mr. Fred Rogers to spread kindness with others. ■



Howard C. Johnson Elementary Introduces “Lending Library” to Promote Reading!

What is the Johnson School Little Lending Library? It is a Jackson Education Association sponsored free book-sharing box where anyone can borrow or share a book. It is located right outside the front doors of the school and functions on the honor system. While you do not need to share a book in order to take one, any donation of one of your gently used books would always be appreciated so that others may enjoy it as much as you did. Books of all genres, styles and types may be found here. It is truly a wonderful opportunity to share books with our Johnson School family and community. The free library is a wonderful place for students and the public to find and leave books for all ages. The students are especially excited because now they can get new books to read and enjoy, even when school is not in session! This project was made possible through the hard work and dedication of our teachers along with a NJEA PRIDE in Public Education grant. So come grab a book and read, read, read. ■



Jackson Elementary School Counselors and Hope Cathedral Give Thanks and Turkeys!

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. About 70 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. Pictured: Elementary School Counselors from Switlik Elementary - Patti DeBenedetto, H.C. Johnson Elementary - Tricia Ciaccio, Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary - Erin Schnorbus and Parent liaison from Sylvia Rosenauer Elementary - Claudette Vazquez. Not pictured - Maryann Garbooshian from Lucy Holman Elementary. ■



Elms Elementary School Pilot Local Ecology “Fire Smart” Club!

Elms Elementary is the pilot school for a new curriculum- FireSmart! Fourth and fifth grade students participate in this club, and information about local ecology is shared. Ultimately, students will learn how to be fire wise at home and understand how wildfires contribute to the necessary regrowth of the Pine Barrens. As seen in the photo, local Naturalist, Jason Hoger, uses a microwave to heat a pitch pine pinecone. The high heat replicates conditions during a wildfire. The pinecone opens and can then better disperse its seeds. ■



Jackson Liberty High School Hosts Friendly and Spirited “Battle of the Classes!”

Jackson Liberty High School recently hosted their annual ‘Battle of the Classes’ and the event did not disappoint! Fun, games and camaraderie were on the menu for this amazing night. We can certainly tell that a good time was had by all. Thank you to all of our JEA volunteers that helped to make this happen and thank you to NJEA PRIDE in Public Education for the funding that helped to make this event possible. We love to give back to our schools for these events. ■





Christa McAuliffe Dens Continue to Promote P.R.I.D.E in School Community!

On September 27, students attended a Pep Rally where our school focus was highlighted on Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dependability, and Empathy (P.R.I.D.E). The assembly program reviewed these character traits and reinforced how we can work as a school community

toward a common goal of kindness, respect, and support. This is such an amazing and important lesson for all and as always, The Jackson Education Association was a proud supporter of this initiative because we are truly stronger when we all work together. ■



Sylvia Rosenauer Elementary Hosts Inaugural Grade 3 and Pre-Buddies Activity Day!

Mrs. Lynch (Grade 3) and Ms. Gillman's (Preschool) classes came together for our first ever "Grade 3 and Pre Buddies" activity day. Each preschooler was paired up with 1-2 third graders and students worked with their buddy to create a Thankful Collage. Students used pictures, stickers, drawings, and words to cover their turkey feathers. We put all the feathers on our Turkey to create a collage of all the great things our kids are thankful for this year. From video games, sports teams, families, and more the students found so many things they wanted to display. It was so great to see them collaborating and working together so well. ■



Switlik Summer Readers Achieve Tremendous Progress During Summer Break!

Over the summer, Mrs. Palme, our Switlik librarian, challenged all students to continue their love for reading all summer long. Students in each grade level received logs to track their progress and we were so happy with the results. So many books were logged and obviously many hours were spent by all as they enjoyed reading during

their vacation. We announced our top readers for each grade level and recognized all during a Monday morning recognition ceremony at school and took a beautiful photo in the reading focus area of our recently renovated school library. Congratulations to all - we appreciate all your hard work! ■



Elms 2nd Graders Learn, Explore, Discover and Improve Their Local Environment!

Students in Ms. Brenner's Second Grade Class at Elms Elementary have been busy exploring and discovering these first few months of school. During science, students learned about coral reefs and the sea creatures that inhabit them, as well as the accumulation of plastic in the ocean known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Luckily, with inspiration from such innovators like Boyan Slat, Ms. Brenner's students know they can make a difference. Following the unit's design challenge, students were asked to reflect on their learning. "As a result of learning about the Pacific Garbage Patch, I will stop littering. Rivers carry the garbage to the ocean. It can hurt the sea animals. I love the ocean and sea animals" remarks one of Ms. Brenner's students, named Ceili. Sustainability, climate change, and environmentalism are important, ongoing topics at Elms Elementary, and to that end, Ms. Brenner's class also participates in the EmPowered Schools Program, and this past month, they started an oak tree nursery and welcomed two Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches to their classroom as pets. Through these hands-on experiences, the science education opportunities in Ms. Brenner's classroom are fostering a deep understanding of the universe and equipping students with essential skills for problem-solving and innovation! ■





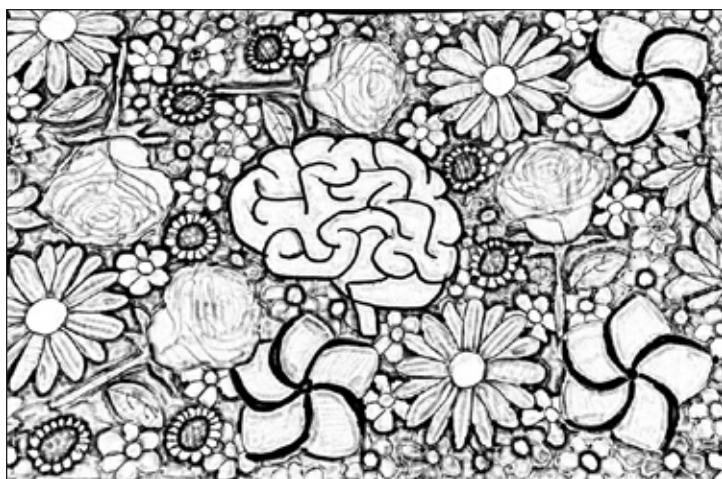
Jackson School District National Honor Students Giving Back to Community!

The Jackson School District Administrative office recently let our entire community know about something very special that is happening with our Jackson Memorial and Jackson Liberty High School students and staff. During this season of gratitude, we all have such a special place in our hearts and a great appreciation for all the ways our students showcase their character and initiative, especially when it comes to reaching out to their own local community. Check out some of these recent photos from the Holiday Food Drive, organized by our National Honor Society Students! With the help of their advisor and teacher Kathleen Bunce, the students have “adopted” 25 families so far for the holidays and made boxes for each family for pick up or delivery. This is just one example of how, in every school, our students and staff are continually “giving back.” Our students and staff continue to serve the community through food and clothing drives, our student clubs and teams have performed community cleanups, have raised thousands of dollars for charities, and have performed in honor of veterans and first responders. We are so proud of them and wanted to make sure that you were aware of the things that our entire school community does above and beyond their regular daily duties. The Jackson School District thrives on the passion that we all exemplify to help one another grow every day. ■



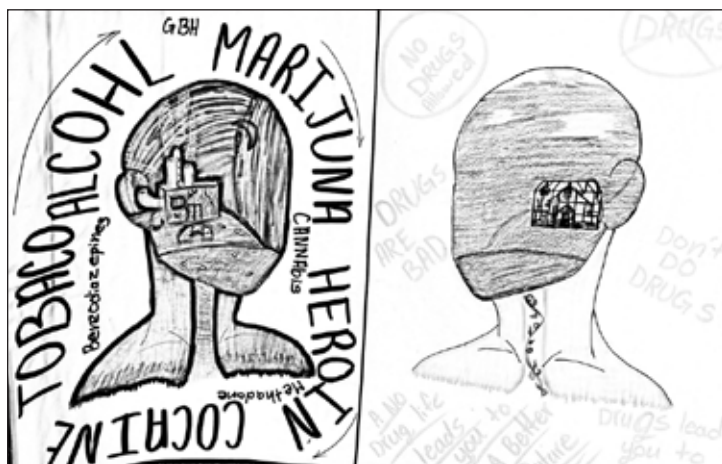
Switlik Bucket Fillers Continue to Promote Positive Interactions & Behaviors Daily!

“A *Bucket Filler is someone whose actions or words show you care about them.*” Switlik students who are filling the buckets of others are Productive, Respectful, have Integrity, Do their best, and Encourage others ==> Panther P.R.I.D.E. Each month, Switlik staff nominate students who exemplify these characteristics. These students might then be chosen to have lunch with Dr. Raymond, Mr. Saulnier and members of the Bucket Filling Team, and receive a celebratory donut from Village Donut Shop Cassville provided by the Switlik PTN. The Switlik PTN is bursting with pride as we celebrate these amazing students! We’re thrilled to offer this monthly treat to recognize their achievements. ■



Goetz Middle School Celebrates Red Ribbon Week to Educate Students and Staff!

“Be Kind To Your Mind, Live Drug Free” was the theme as Goetz Middle School celebrated Red Ribbon Week from 10/23/23-10/27/23. Red Ribbon Week is a very important initiative in schools around the country as it allows us to shine a spotlight on the issue that is plaguing our children, drugs. This week was a time to talk and educate our students about the dangers of drugs. Ms. Fisk, Student Assistance Counselor taught pop up lessons to all grades discussing the dangers of drugs and some strategies to know on how to handle the peer pressure surrounding vaping, smoking, marijuana use and use of other drugs. Daily announcements were made to share strategies and helpful information to our students to spread the message about not only staying drug free, but to help others if they are contemplating drug use. Two culminating events were a Friday “Be kind to your mind and body” dance party with “stay drug free” gifts such as red ribbons, pencils, smarties, stay drug free stickers and stay drug free bracelets. The students had a great time and their feedback was very positive. We also sponsored a Creative Contest which



included many genres of art. Several entries were submitted and the winners are as follows. First place - Maya Kowolczyk, second place - Nina Bohichik, third place - Helen Yegelwel and honorable mentions - Emily Faint and Andre Mendez. Check out all their artistic works right here. Most important, the drug free message continues throughout the school year with assemblies, the DARE program and the Board of Health visits. We are looking forward to a continued great year with our amazing and talented students. ■



Jackson Memorial High School Pumpkin Painting Honors and Inspires All of Us!

The Jackson Memorial World Language Club truly brings out some of the best creativity that we have seen around our schools. During the month of October, Mrs. Mousavi and Mrs. Cafara has their students express their love of art and creative skills as they painted pumpkins to celebrate the autumn season as well as honor one of their own role models. A very special Snoopy pumpkin was imagined, designed created in honor and remembrance of our friend, Mrs. Sue McGinley, who passed away last year. Our entire school community will always cherish her smiling face as she made all students as well as staff feel so welcomed and loved as they went into the Jackson Memorial office daily. We still feel her presence here and because she loved Snoopy and The Peanuts so much, we are so proud to showcase this beautiful work of art. ■



JEA Members go all out for Halloween... see pages 22-23.



Carl W. Goetz Middle School Youth Coalition Prepares for 2023-24 School Year!

The school year got off to an early start for Goetz Middle School students with their Overdose Awareness Walk, which was held in the town of Red Bank back on 8/31. Goetz students, led by Ms. Fisk (SAC) and Youth Coalition Leader, showed their support for the many families who have lost a loved one to overdose as well as the Tigger Stavola Foundation, which funds and supports several district wide functions and events for our students. Our volunteers joined this mile walk in to promote the prevention of drug usage and bring attention to the issues surrounding drug usage and overdose. Our Youth Prevention Coalition is a group of selected students who will be attending a training session at Goetz led by the DART Prevention Coalition. These students

will become the Ambassadors in our school who will assist in educating and supporting our students as well as the youth in our community. DART has served Ocean County for 10 years and the Coalition focuses on preventing underage drinking, prescription drug abuse and the illegal use of marijuana and tobacco in Ocean County. DART is composed of community leaders including law enforcement and government officials, educators, business owners, substance abuse professionals, faith-based leaders, and students. ■



Sylvia Rosenauer Roadrunners “We Build” Club Kicks Off a New Campaign!

The Rosenauer Roadrunners started a “We Build” club this year. The 4th and 5th grade club will focus on providing special items for various programs around the district. Run by teachers Nicole Koopman, Courtney Stearns, Doug Jackson and physical therapist Natalie Zozzaro, they are designing and creating projects that will be requested by district therapists in addition to other STEM type elements. So far the club has made Corsi-Rosenthal boxes, which have been proven to be more effective than HEPA filters in reducing levels of airborne viral particles. These boxes will be used in several classrooms. Materials for these boxes were donated

continued on next page



by some amazing, local parents. In addition, the club has received a very generous donation of a 3D printer from a local organization, Amanda's Angels, to help build these creations. With assistance from Kierstin Koopman, a paraprofessional from Christa McAuliffe school as well as Kayla Simon, a junior from Liberty High School, we got the 3D computer hooked up. Fortunately for us, Kayla proved to be an expert and was able to teach the students and teachers how to set up and use the printer. We all look forward to her coming back and teaching us more because we are just realizing the possibilities of this all. ■



JEA Supports Jackson Memorial High School "Senior Spaces" Creations!

The Jackson Education Association was extremely proud to provide funding and assistance to the seniors at Jackson Memorial High School for their "Senior Spaces!" This is becoming an annual rite of passage and really showcases many of our talented students who continue to create some fabulous and colorful works of art! It's almost a shame that a vehicle will cover it during the school day but it demonstrates another example of community pride among our students and school community! ■



Switlik Elementary School Debuts Morning Announcements on “Switlik TV”

Switlik Elementary is proud to transition our daily AM announcements to a live video broadcast that our students and staff can watch in their classrooms. Since the first day that we launched, we never stopped and have continued to broadcast live each and every day. Through the support of our generous PTN & the support of our building administrators Mr. Saulnier & Dr. Raymond, we were able to create a vision and purchase the needed technology to make this happen. We are so thankful for their generosity and also for the support from JTV as well as our district technology department for all their assistance in assuring that our live stream was set up properly. An extra special thanks is due to Mrs. Gilmore, Mrs. Magee & Mrs. DeBenedetto for not only appearing as our first staff hosts, but for also establishing a professional yet fun example for our first student hosts and production team. We would also like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Jessica Williams, one of our building secretaries, for her assistance with our program. As the year progresses, we will feature many of our staff members while also introducing new 5th grade student hosts. It is our ultimate goal to allow them to take supervised ownership of our live daily announcements, which include character education as well as school happenings. You can check us out on our YouTube Channel - Switlik Elementary TV. ■

Crawford-Rodriguez School Interactions Promote Daily Skills in Both Learning & Life!

At Crawford-Rodriguez, they value the interaction of their staff and students every day and in every lesson and situation. This interaction is an extremely important part of their daily routine and has become a crucial component of our school culture. However, there are still those students that struggle to make a connection which can impede upon their learning. This is why we brought back a mentoring program this year. The students who will be taking part in this program have been identified as needing an extra level of attention to help guide them through school. The mentors will be offering support in organization, study and social skills, as well as acting as a role model for their “mentee.” Our mentors will not be assigned specific times to work with their designated students, but rather find a “groove” that fits them best and stay in contact as much as possible. This year, they have over 20 staff members participating. They hope to continue this program yearly as positive results are already being seen. ■



JEA Members go all out for Halloween... see pages 22-23.



Holman Elementary School Wide Fall Family Fun Night Event!

Holman Elementary School recently hosted a Fall Family Night and it was an amazing success! Families played and learned together throughout the evening and our teachers and paraprofessionals enjoyed meeting and working with families! The Jackson Education Association was a proud sponsor of the evening, providing meals to attendees through a generous NJEA PRIDE in Public Education grant. ■



Elms Elementary Welcomes Lead U to Engage, Educate & Empower All!

It was a fun-filled day of learning, positive energy, and kindness when the students at Elms Elementary participated in assemblies on November 3rd. Students learned about empathy, smart decision making, and coping skills from Lead U teaching artists, whose primary goal is to creatively engage, educate, and empower students to find the leaders within themselves. Funded by the Elms PTN, the assemblies were a big hit with students and teachers alike! ■



JEA Members go all out for Halloween... see pages 22-23.



Jackson Memorial Spanish Honor Society Chalk Decorations Honor Hispanic Heritage!

The Spanish Honor Society did sidewalk chalk decorations at Memorial in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. It's so much fun to see the unique designs and vibrant colors, which truly represent the Hispanic culture and traditions. It's always so nice to see students and staff teaching us about different cultures and backgrounds especially when it's through the use of art that can truly captivate us all. ■



It's Official! The JEA is Helping The American Cancer Society Save Lives!

The Jackson Education Association is made up of so many caring and community driven members who will always help one another, even if it's someone they never met personally or are affiliated with. This is an example of us coming together to support a cause that we are truly passionate about - The American Cancer Society and "Mary's Place by the Sea." Through the generous donations of our members and their families, we were able to raise \$2025 for both of these wonderful organizations. We are so grateful for the work that they do and it's our honor to support them and do whatever it takes to fight this horrible disease. ■



Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary Celebrates National Cardboard Arcade Day!

October 6 is National Cardboard Arcade Day! Mrs. Karatzia and Mrs. Ostroman's fifth grade class at Crawford created an arcade project using recycled materials. The rules were simple...if it is laying around your house or the classroom you can use it! The first year they tried it, the kids loved it! They were astounded by their creativity and imagination. It has become a tradition for starting their school year! The kids use the STEM components of science, technology, engineering and math throughout the whole process as they create, measure, build, and play! ■



JEA Members go all out for Halloween... see pages 22-23.





JEA Members Go All Out for Halloween Themed Fun on October 31st!

The JEA knows how to do Halloween right! 10 buildings and so many teachers, paraprofessionals and secretaries took Halloween to heart. It is this type of passion and dedication that really makes an impact on the culture of every building, and most important to our students who learn from us every single day. Check out all of the awesome costumes that we were able to gather for you here which truly showcase how creative we all can be! ■

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*

Chris Nye, *Treasurer*

Stephanie Healy, *Corresponding Secretary*

Elaine Holleran, *Recording Secretary*



JEA Members go all out for Halloween... see pages 22-23.



Jackson Memorial High School Symphonic Band Preparing For Their Winter Season!

Check out this wonderful photo of our Memorial Symphonic Band during their last rehearsal before Thanksgiving break. As all our district musicians understand, the love of practicing and performing is always there even as the Holiday

months happen. We just want to thank all for their continued support of the arts and the music making process. It truly makes the Jackson School District so special because we really do have the best performing arts programs around. ■