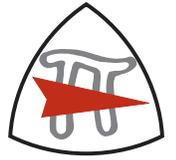


# PRIDE *in Education*



Volume 11 Number 4

December 2019

## Liberty Students Construct Blue Bird Nesting Boxes!



research projects, the FREC provides several engaging & outside learning opportunities for our students. Pictured are JLHS seniors Laura Lozano and Preston Williams, along with recent graduate Joseph Cho. This group with their mentor, Dr. Laura Stone, who is currently the nestbox monitor with the New Jersey Bluebird Society (NJBBS) at FREC have, been monitoring nest boxes twice a week at the FREC for the past two years and reporting their findings for each on the Cornell University's Nestwatch web site. The picture depicts the group's most recent effort which includes building bluebird boxes and their placement on the JLHS campus. The goal is to introduce future generations of JLHS students to this special project 'recovering the population of native bluebirds' by learning about and assisting in the North American effort to recover and maintain the bluebird population and decrease the non-native House Sparrow population which has devastated native birds since its importation in 1858 by installing and monitoring specific nestboxes. ■

The Jackson School District is proud to have established a lasting partnership with Jackson Forest Resource Educational Center (FREC). From the trout release program to the annual forestry festival to independent

## Switlik Students "Checking it Out" During Their Summer Break!

Switlik students had a fabulous time this summer attending our annual Check It Out Library program. They created healthy fruit and yogurt parfaits after learning about food groups with Ms. Jen from the Jackson Shoprite. Ms. Colleen, from the Jackson library, engaged the children in stamp making with her Cricut machine. On another day, she had them posing in front of a green screen while their imaginations soared! Puppies from The Seeing Eye Foundation and Bright and Beautiful therapy dogs were also spotted in the library this summer. The children learned about their very special jobs and had a chance to read to them. Smiles were everywhere and tails were wagging! Ms.



Lori Palme, Switlik's library media specialist, was also delighted to check out almost 800 books (799 to be exact) to help promote the Jackson school district's summer reading initiative. Today a reader, tomorrow a leader! ■





## Liberty Students REEL Excited w/ Raising “Trout” in Their Classrooms!

**O**ur Earth and Environmental Science at Jackson Liberty High School is proud to announce their partnership with Pequest Trout Hatchery and will be raising trout in the classroom. The trout were welcomed warmly on October 21st. The students were “REEL” excited to celebrate the arrival of their trout eggs. The trout will be cared for by the students, testing the water quality of the tank, journaling the trout growth and development, and feeding are apart of a year long project. The students will have a chance to release the trout in Spring 2020. ■



## Jackson Memorial Students Training to Become Future Business Leaders!

**F**or the 2019-2020 school year, the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) at Jackson Memorial High School has partnered with the Chick-fil-A in Howell in a unique leadership program. The Chick-fil-A Leader Academy is a national leadership program that provides students the platform they need to transform their schools and impact their communities. 30 members of FBLA have committed to this program and so far, it’s been a huge success. Students must attend monthly leader lab training and must complete 3 service projects throughout the course of the school year. The first service project was completed during the 2-hour kickoff event. The students created and sent off care packages to active members of our military. During the month of November, the students had to come up with a service project for “Do Good December.” They chose to reach out to the Vintage Shop at McAuliffe Middle School to see if the shop needed any donations as well as assist them in sorting the clothes and working at the shop. The members of the





Leader Academy are so excited to be able to volunteer their time to assist the Jackson community. The third project the students must complete will take place in the spring and must involve multiple stakeholders in the community. I am excited to see what the students decide to create. None of this would be possible without the dedication of Mr. Jeff Bassett, the owner of the Chick-fil-A in Howell. He's fully supported us from Day 1 of this undertaking. He's both attended and donated food for the kids for every meeting we've had so far, which he is not obligated to do. His passion for serving others is truly inspiring. He's gone above and beyond for the FBLA members at JMHS and we plan on doing the same for him. ■

## At Switlik, We “Teach Peace” To Promote Kindness!

One of our learning initiatives at Switlik School is to demonstrate kindness to others. One way that we continue to do this with is through our Bucket Filler



program, which we have since been recognized for when we began it almost 10 years ago. The goal for this has been to promote positive behavior and interactions with one another, and to do it out of kindness, not just for reward. As new students come into our building every year along with the new and innovative methods that continued to be taught in their curriculum studies, we always want all children to know that we all must continue to strive in working well together while being nice and respectful to all. Some of the new techniques we have utilized this year are Yoga Calm and Mindfulness, which allow both staff and students to take a breath, stretch and relax, and re-energize our minds so that we are always ready to focus and learn! We have even invited the parents into our building to learn a little more about these programs and see the positive impact that it can have on everyone! ■

## Elms 4th Grade Students Participate in a Young Authors Presentation!

During American Education Week, Mrs. Rudenjak and Ms. Prugno's 4th grade students participated in a Young Authors Presentation to celebrate their publication of their realistic fiction stories. Parents were invited to share in this wonderful experience. The students worked hard all trimester to publish a realistic fiction story. After completing the writing process of drafting, revising, editing and publishing, they worked on book jackets and even added the little “blurb” on the back to add authenticity to the finished projects. Parents and students took part in an Author's Walk-Around to read and comment on the students' work. As part of this experience, there was a discussion prior to the reading of the stories about giving positive and constructive feedback to their classmates. At the culmination of the event, students went home with many positive and memorable comments that gave them the feeling of accomplishment they so well deserve. There were many proud authors in room 227 at Elms Elementary! ■





## What's up at the Johnson and Crawford Elementary Schools? Movement, Learning and Fun!!!

Our therapists and teachers have joined together to encourage more movement opportunities for our students throughout the day utilizing “The Sensory Path”. Research supports the importance of movement breaks during the school day. Students are easily distracted, but regular, short breaks can help them focus, increase their productivity, and reduce their stress. Regular breaks throughout the school day—from short brain breaks in the classroom to the longer break of recess—are not simply enough downtime for students. Brain Breaks/brain boosts are an essential part of learning. But the benefits extend beyond the social-emotional well-being of students. Brain Boosts are a quick and effective way of changing or focusing the physical and mental state of the learners in your group. They are also a useful tool for students to use to help activate, energize and stimulate their brains. Particularly for younger students, regular breaks throughout the school day can be an effective way to reduce disruptive behavior. The Sensory Path is designed to change the child’s body position as he/she completes the course, it has the child focus on academic visuals, while moving the body in a specific order. As the child moves through the path, the body movements slow down or speed up, but work towards giving the proper sensory input without over stimulating the student. Debby Mooney, Physical Therapist and Denise Barrett, Occupational Therapist guided the procurement of the Sensory Path at the Johnson Elementary School with the support of the Johnson PTO and Dr. Raymond. The Sensory Path is used during therapy sessions as well as for indoor recess, and general movement breaks throughout the day. The Preschool Team at the Crawford Rodriguez School, including Debby Mooney, Physical Therapist; Gina Palumbo, Occupational Therapist; and Preschool teachers, Liz Manzo and Crystal Taylor launched the 2nd Sensory Path in the Jackson School district. Mrs. Jean-Denis was very supportive in bringing this to fruition. Debby Mooney, PT and Gina Palumbo, OT are currently in the process of bringing each grade level through the Sensory Path, and collaborating with teachers who are open to utilizing this fun tool to provide learning opportunities through movement for their students. In both schools, the teams hope to address our District’s initiatives through providing social emotional regulation and allowing all of our students to function to the best of their ability in their least restrictive environment. ■



## Jackson Education Association Making Strides To Fight Cancer!

**O**n Sunday October 20th, the Jackson Education Association participated in the annual “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk” in Point Pleasant Beach. We had a fantastic day together in which many of our local Jackson educators, friends, and families walked among 22,000 other passionate walkers and volunteers united in support of this important cause. With your continued support, we were able to raise over \$1600 through our own fundraising efforts. We thank everyone for their support and hope to see more of you in October 2020! ■

## Arcade Adventures!

**C**ome on down to McEwan’s Arcade! After watching a video called Caine’s Arcade about a boy in Los Angeles who created his own arcade games out of repurposed materials, the fifth grade students in Mr. McEwan’s class at Holman Elementary School designed and created their own arcade games. The students used recycled materials for their projects, and they had to write an essay persuading people to play their game. Some of the creations included familiar arcade games like skeeball, whack-a-bear, ring toss, and the claw machine game. The students invited children from other classes to come and play in the arcade, and Mr. McEwan’s students gave away their old toys as prizes. A fun time was had by all! ■





## Summer Reading Success!

**A**t Holman Elementary School, students work hard at reading and learning all year long. Last June, Holman students were given summer reading logs and were encouraged to read books over the summer. When the kids brought their summer reading logs back to school in September, they received prizes. One of the biggest rewards for the summer reading students was the opportunity to play kickball with Holman Principal, Mr. Karas. The students loved to play and spend time with Mr. Karas outside of the classroom. More than 230 Holman students in all grades, kindergarten through fifth, brought in their reading logs and were recognized for their reading achievement! ■



## We're A Smarter, Kinder School With Mighty!

**H**.C. Johnson School librarian Carrie Hogan and music teacher Missy O'Keeffe recently won an Ocean First Model Classroom Grant to implement a therapy dog program at the Johnson School. The goal was to provide



targeted lessons on social and emotional learning based on Yale University's Mutt-i-grees Curriculum. Once Mighty was introduced into the school, the response was so positive, he quickly became a force for good in all areas of learning. Interactions with Mighty have given everyone a powerful, positive vocabulary. Now, the students are able to understand and engage one another. In addition to social and emotional learning, the staff has been eager to incorporate him in academic lessons. Mighty engages students for WIN, Basic Skills interventions, Guidance sessions and Advanced Math classes too. ■

## Lead U Crew Returns to Switlik School!

**U**nder the direction of our Switlik Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Patti DeBenedetto, Anti-Bullying and Character Education are always important themes that we strive to promote at Switlik School everyday. During the





beginning of this school year, we were lucky to again host Mr. J.D. Wilson and his team from Lead U to meet with our student learners. Lead U is a positive group of teaching artists who creatively engage, educate and empower learners of all ages to find the leaders within themselves. Through discussions, short skits, and interactive activities - the staff from Lead U wants all our students to know that “they are superheroes and each of them can do anything that they work towards” - which of course is something that the staff at Switlik School believes and will also continue to teach all year long! ■

## Switlik Conducts Annual Switlik Fall Festival Celebration!

**E**ach October our staff at Switlik school tends to get a little competitive as they show off their artistic talent during our annual Fall Festival Pumpkin Contest. Participating



staff members each receive a large and healthy pumpkin, supplied by our generous Switlik PTN, and are able to take it home for one week in order to make their creative ideas become a reality. This is when our staff are challenged to demonstrate their skill in both carving and painting unique designs that are all created for our students to enjoy. Creations such as video game and book characters to superheroes and even everyday objects are just a few examples of what our staff makes for this event. The best part comes when the finished pumpkin projects are displayed in the main hallway during the day of our Fall Festival celebration for all to see. Each homeroom comes down, with voting tickets in hand, and all students get to vote for their own personal favorite - with the top three winners being announced at the PTN Fall Festival Family Fun Night later that evening. Additionally, students and parents are able to bid a small amount for a chance to win and take home their favorite pumpkin, with all proceeds going back to our wonderful PTN organization who continues to support our school. We applaud all our staff for their participation in this event as they truly inspire our children with their creativity and allow them to learn a small lesson in civics during the voting process! ■

## Holman Students Become Dream Makers!

Lucy N. Holman Elementary School students enjoyed learning about being a DREAM MAKER, not a dream breaker from Zyna and Dynamo during Safe Schools Week. Zyna and Dynamo are Superheroes that Help Everyone Respect Others. They taught the students about being respectful, responsible, and safe. Specifically, they talked about important topics such as having a positive attitude, treating others with respect, and the importance of coming to school everyday. Thank you Holman's Parent-Teacher Organization, H.O.P.E., for sponsoring this assembly for the students at Holman. ■



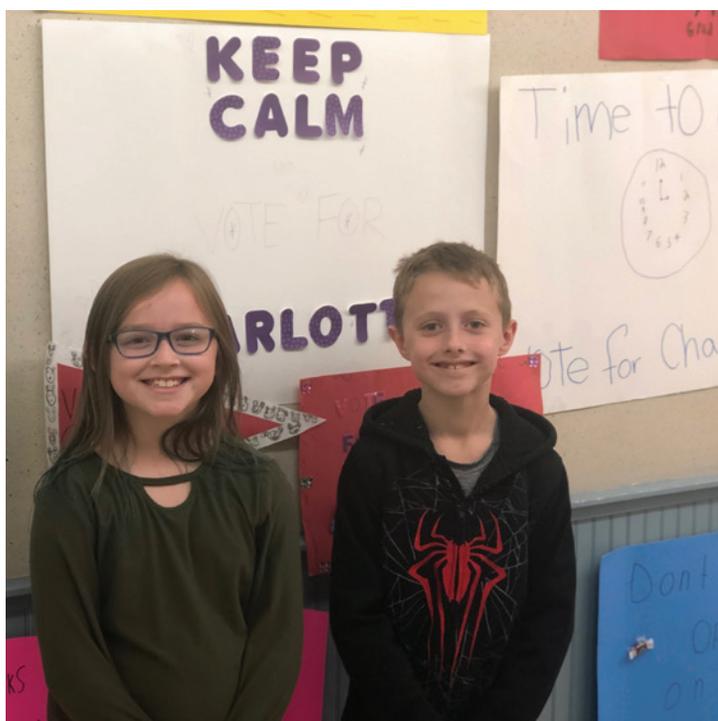
## Johnson Buddy Bench Swings Towards Inclusiveness!

The H.C. Johnson Elementary School Buddy Bench is in full swing! Students in fourth grade last year made a video about how to use the buddy bench. All Johnson students watched the video and had a question and answer session with Mrs. Schnorbus, the school counselor, and Miss Cook, a special education teacher at Johnson. This buddy bench, which was built by high school students in Jackson, is one way the Johnson staff hopes to encourage an inclusive environment for all! ■



## Crawford Kids Making Their Voices Heard!

The students in Mrs. Alkalay's and Mrs. Sanzone's 3rd grade class experienced the voting process first hand. In September, students ran in the Primaries for Class President. In October, Ashley Wall was elected to represent the "blue team" and Charlotte Fatovic was elected to represent the "red team." Both candidates did an outstanding job choosing their Vice Presidents Emmalyn Tolska and Daniel Calabrese and campaigning with their excellent campaign managers, Brianna Reilly and Maia Ramos! On Election Day, Charlotte Fatovic and Daniel Calabrese became our class President and Vice President! Now, President Fatovic is working on selecting her cabinet...stay tuned! ■



## Rosenauer Kids Love Learning!

Jackson Pre-K class at Rosenauer had a fun beginning of the year! They had a visit with firefighters to learn about fire safety, attended an "at school" pumpkin patch, and worked on fine motor skills by hammering golf tees in pumpkins! ■



## McAuliffe Students & Staff Run For Our Veterans Both Home & Abroad!

**T**he holiday season could be just a bit easier for men and women in the military serving overseas and right here at home, thanks to the efforts of the students and staff of the Christa McAuliffe Middle School. As part of this year's 20th Annual Run For Vets event, the students raised \$3,500 for veterans and also collected donations for Operation Shoebox, a non-profit organization that delivers care packages to military members overseas. "Run for Vets is a very special event that we have proudly held for 20 years," said Jackie Volpe, who along with fellow teacher Jenn Nickerson organized the event this year. "A special thank you goes out to all who helped in any way, and especially to our active military members and our veterans." The Run for Vets event itself starts with a breakfast that honors guest veterans and active military members, who are accompanied by a student from McAuliffe. During the breakfast, the student presents a small statement why their Honored Vet is so special. Afterwards, veterans volunteer to share their experiences and stories with students by doing classroom visits. At the end of the school day is the cumulative event of the day-the actual run where we have different categories for racing, walking, and relay teams. ■



## Goetz Teacher Recognized as “My Hero Works at School”

**C**ongratulations to Goetz educator Susan Kratz as she was chosen by her student Brenzon Torres and selected by the NJEA Public Relations Committee as our My Hero Works at School winner! NJEA partners with the Trenton Thunder baseball team to run this contest and is such a special honor for all involved. Not only did both Mrs. Kratz and Brenzon get tickets to attend a Trenton Thunder baseball game back in September, but both are experiencing the full impact that teachers and students make on one another. How wonderful it is to have a student who goes out of his way in showing the respect and appreciation that they have for one of their hard working and dedicated teachers! ■



## Holman Is A Bucket Filling School!

**D**uring the Week of Respect, schools across New Jersey focus on ways to prevent bullying. At Holman School, students have been showing respect by being BUCKET FILLERS each and every day. As a school community, students and staff pledged to stand up and speak up when someone is being inconsiderate, uncaring or disrespectful to another. The Holman School community recognizes the importance of constantly promoting a positive school climate. Holman is a place where everyone strives for a learning environment where all students feel safe and achieve academic success. ■



## Jackson Education Association

55 N. County Line Road

Jackson, New Jersey 08527

Lisa Crate, *President*

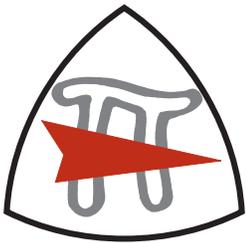
Brian Morgan, *Vice President*

Marcus Villecco, *Treasurer*

Stephanie Healy, *Corresponding Secretary*

Elaine Holleran, *Recording Secretary*

Phone: (732) 367-4954



## First Financial Foundation Awards Classroom Grant to HC Johnson Elementary

**H**.C. Johnson Elementary School librarian Carrie Hogan and music teacher Missy O’Keeffe were recently surprised by members of the First Financial Foundation with a \$492.88 Erma Dorrer classroom grant for the 2019-2020 school year. The team recognized the transformative power of service and social-emotional learning with the creation of Johnson Elementary School’s aquaponic garden. Hogan & O’Keeffe submitted a grant application to purchase seeds, herbs, and soil for the elementary school’s aquaponics garden and lab located within the building’s library. The grant money will be used to provide the Jackson community with fresh vegetables and herbs, and crops from their micro-farm will be donated to the local food pantry to help those in need. According to the Center for Food Action, “One in every 10 New Jersey residents faces food insecurity, meaning they do not have an adequate, consistent supply of food. This affects young children, senior citizens, and many families in our local community.” Hogan says, “The guiding principle of our program is the belief that all students should be provided with a learning environment that supports and challenges their thinking. This classroom will provide students with the opportunity to take ownership over their own

learning, and they will be given the chance to sharpen their critical thinking skills. Most importantly, it allows our students to see the impact that their own actions have upon their local community.” ■

