



December 2014

*Happy Holidays!*

# THE JAGUAR Journal



## FOUR TIME



## STATE CHAMPS



*MORE PICTURES + DETAILS ON PAGE 2...*



Joe Demaio & Brad Greenway



Mike Gawlik & Matt Castronuova



# TRADITION NEVER GRADUATES

By Jillian Parinello

Any fan of Jaguar athletics can tell you that the football team here at Memorial surely has a flare for the dramatic. In this golden anniversary year, our Jaguars were off to the races from game one. Beating every team they played, the Jags were undoubtedly on a different level than the rest of A-South.

The season began with a defeat of Jackson

Liberty that appeared to be effortless as the boys tamed the Lions 50-16, establishing from the outset who the true kings of the jungle were. After rolling over A-South opponents Lacey Township and Southern Regional, the Jags lost a heartbreaker to the Dragons of Brick Township. Evidently, this defeat lit a fire under the Jags as they won over Toms River North,

Brick Memorial, Toms River South, Toms River East, and Red Bank Catholic to end the Caseys' historic win streak. Seeded third going into the State tournament, the Jags opened the post-season by beating Middletown North 45-7. This set up the matchup for which the team had been hoping. In the semifinals, Jackson slaughtered the Brick Dragons 44-0, avenging the

earlier misstep.

The scene was set for a state final game against number one seed Middletown South. Icy rain hammered High Point Solutions Stadium at Rutgers University all day. However, the rain ceased to cool the enthusiasm of the team and the rabid, diehard fans of Jaguar Nation.

The Jags came out on a mission, scoring on

their first possession and recovering a fumble on the ensuing kickoff and scoring again. In fact, the Jags dominated the entire first half. During the second half, Middletown South hit a couple of huge scoring plays and got within a field goal but the Jaguars regained their composure and shut down a fake field goal attempt to prevail in ...continues on page 3

*TRADITION continued...*  
heroic fashion, conquering the intense precipitation at Rutgers.

The team was led in the championship and all season by senior quarterback and defensive back, Joe DeMaio who passed for one score and ran for another in the final, while

making a key shoestring tackle to save a touchdown on defense. The running back duo of junior Vinny Lee and sophomore Mike Gawlik were a key aspect of the Jaguar attack, firing through holes created by the all world offensive line featuring seniors Brody Graham, Brad Greenway,

and Glenn Kipila. Receivers Aaron Curet and Kyle Johnson wreaked havoc on opposing secondaries. The defense was stout featuring Graham, senior linebackers Zach Tetro and Cole Collins and Juniors Adante Davis and Austin Ostrander. Also contributing largely to the success of the Jags

was the addition of Senior Matt Castronouva who came from Liberty to bring toughness on both sides of the ball.

The Jaguars finished the season ranked number two in the state, beating every team on their schedule as well as Central Jersey Group IV champions. They

are the pride of our athletic program and and made our fiftieth anniversary even more special. Though losing an unforgettable senior class, the Jags look to pick up right where they left off in the 2015-2016 season. Tradition never graduates.

## THIRD ANNUAL MEMORIAL IDOL

Jill Parinello  
Staff Writer

Since 2012, students anxiously await the night of Memorial Idol. Jackson Memorial students are renowned for their many talents, and performing arts is certainly one of them as we harbor a great deal of masterful vocalists. Our third annual Memorial Idol, held on December 5th, 2014, was a true display of talent. The hosts, Anijah Hudson, Taylor Solomon, Dan Tate, and Kelly Ann Young served as the comic relief of the night. The competition was judged by some of our favorite teachers- Mrs. Connell, Mrs. Kerrigan, and Mr. Pienkowski.

Deanna Sparling kicked off the event with Christina Perri's "Jar of Hearts." Following up were Allison Boenig, who soulfully serenaded the crowd, and Christian Tucker who

braved the acapella performance masterfully. Amanda Habe belted out "Don't Speak" while adding some comedy to captivate the audience. Megan Rafferty dedicated her performance to her friends and family as she sang "Count On Me." Marley Anders shocked the audience with her bold voice that she showed off by performing "Chandalier." The next contestant, Emily Jacoby, is described best by Mrs. Connell as "extremely likable." Emily preformed "Riptide" while playing the ukulele. Grace Burrows followed up with the empowering performance of "Feeling Good." Aaron Curet intrigued the crowd by singing "Adorn." Haylee Vitale stole the show when she sang "Something's Got a Hold On Me." Marissa Rosata was next with the

emotional ballad, "Thousand Years." Lastly, and certainly not least was Gianna Petrone who put on a full show with Jessie J's "Mama Knows Best."

While all contestants were truly exceptional for making it to the show and putting on remarkable performances, after the audience vote, only Emily Jacoby, Allison Boenig, and Haylee Vitale remained. Round two proved the true artistry of the final three. However, Haylee Vitale ultimately stood out to the crowd by beautifully belting out Christina Aguilera's "Bound to You" to take home the prize. Thank you to all of the contestants, judges, hosts, and those who worked behind the scenes on this productions and congratulations to Haylee!

## DIVERSE HOLIDAY CONCERT

Brendan Korey  
Staff Writer

With winter, and all its festivities, comes the annual holiday concert performed by the Jaguar Marching Band, which boasts close to 200 talented students who contribute their musical artistry. The band performs a variety of genres that reflects the winter season, such as: "Hanukah, Festival of Lights", the militaristic "March of the Toys", the euphoric "Sleigh Ride", and the tranquil waltz of "Greensleeves."

Opening the concert is the woodwind choir directed by Jaguar Marching Band its director Tim Apgar conducting a group of instruments that includes saxophones, flutes, oboes, clarinets,

and bassoons. The pieces of "Charlie Brown Christmas" and multi-movement "Gaelic Suite" provide exceptionally refined solos from the saxophone and flute.

Next, assistant band director Jason Diaz conducts the upbeat jazz ensemble, with its interpretations of "Go Tell It on the Mountain," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and imagery-structured "My Favorite Things." These songs allow solo improvisations of phrasing and and style, played entirely at the whim of the soloist.

The holiday concert will take place at 7 p.m. on December 18th in the Jackson Memorial auditorium.

# ROGER THAT

Sophia Samuel  
Editor-in-Chief

What is the derivative of  $x^3$ ? Can you find the third-degree Taylor polynomial? If these expressions sound familiar, you have probably had Mrs. Rogers as a teacher at some point in your high school career. A teacher at JMHS since 1987, Mrs. Rogers has made her mark as one of the students' favorites. After 32 years of teaching, Mrs. Rogers has decided to hand in her chalk and retire. Wenting Sun, senior and co-president of the National Math Honor Society recalls her experience as Mrs. Rogers' student: "Mrs. Rogers was my first AP teacher, and she set this standard of what you have to do in an AP class. It's not just fun and games anymore. You have to work very hard to be success-



ful. With that being said, there is nothing you can't achieve. If you want something badly enough, you are going to do everything it takes to get there. If that means staying up late and coming early everyday, then so be it. I had such a great foundation in Calc AB that

BC was like a breeze for me and my other friends. She has been so supportive of everything we do, whether it's math league, or sports, or the musical, or encouraging us to chase after our dreams. It was really hard for me when I first heard that she is leaving, but I am

glad that she is chasing after her own dream." Although Mrs. Rogers' classroom is her home, she never planned on being a high school math teacher: "I went to Virginia Tech as an engineering major and I was told I would have a job before the men would even

have their foot out the door because I was a woman. However, I didn't have the calculus background that I needed and I wasn't getting A's in my calculus class. I felt upset and defeated, which is why I encourage my students to stay on it, *continues on page 4...*

**ROGER THAT cont...**  
stay focused, and not get lost." A devoted athlete, Mrs. Rogers ended up changing her major to physical education. She says, "I went into physical education, but I realized I wanted the math. So I went back to Georgian Court." When asked to speak of

one of her greatest teaching moments, Mrs. Rogers explains, "They're too numerous to mention. I can't even begin to say. Just watching the kids learn it, get it, understand it, and tell me in college how beneficial the course was and how successful they are is amazing. I work hard, but I have

really smart kids. They demand certain things from me and it's very rewarding to see them turn around and

"I didn't have the calculus background that I needed and I wasn't getting A's in my calculus class. I felt upset and defeated, which is why I encourage my students to stay on it, stay focused, and not get lost."

do such a phenomenal job." And what will Mrs. Rogers miss the most about her job? "You guys!" she exclaims. "Before I

leave I would like to tell my students how much faith I have in them and how phenomenal they are. They need to remember to stay at it and not get sidetracked." And how will her students respond? I can only imagine with a hearty, "Roger that."

# NEW ROOTS

Jordan Alderman  
Staff Writer

The Clayton quad has been looking ever more spirited since senior Jag Pat McCloskey began working on it for his Eagle Scout Project. The quad had previously been devoid of anything but dry grass and a place for water to collect after heavy rains. Now the quad is on full bloom. The scene is framed by stones and shrubbery with the precision of a professional landscaper. When I commented on this Patrick simply said, "I would just say that I had a

lot of great advice." Non-scouts like myself should know that "An Eagle Scout Project, is the opportunity for a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout or qualified Venturer in the Boy Scouts of America to demonstrate leadership of others while performing a

project for the benefit of his community." Patrick joined Cub Scouts as a first grader and advanced to Boy Scouts as a fifth grader. He has been a scout for a decade, stating, "Scouts has definitely helped shape who I am and is one of the biggest influences in my life."

"I wanted to give back to the school that has given so much to me."

Transforming the outdoors is a challenge with both fickle weather and the existing surroundings. The tendency for certain areas to flood or soil to become water-laden and thus unworkable is always possible. Patrick knew he wanted to work on the quad as the area "was very overgrown and in poor condition. I wanted to give back to the school that has given so much to me." As the quad approaches its final tweaks and adjustments, the hours of

work show. Seemingly little things adorn the area, such as the small-animal sized rocks that were positioned with the help of wheelbarrows and elbow grease. "To get the big boulders into the court yard we used hand carts and man power and to bring in the rest of the rock we used wheel barrels and buckets." Thanks to Patrick, this previously abandoned space catches the eye, as the old weeds have given way to full bloomings and a very fresh lunchtime.

## GRADE SCALES AND THE NEWLY DETERMINED GPA

Maggie Varrelmann

Did you ever hear of the High School Grading Committee? Most people haven't as it was recently formed to evaluate the past high school grading system and suggest any necessary changes to improve it. Each and every person who attended the meetings had the student body in mind and kept thinking about how it would affect them. With every idea that came to them, the committee wanted to maintain the integrity of students' performances, emphasize student achievement, and keep up the healthy competitiveness between students and their peers. It was a long process, but after several recommendations, the committee came to a decision.

Principal Kevin DiEugenio is passionate about the new and improved grading system. "I wanted this ever since 1995," he said, adding that he was one of the first people to initiate the committee in an effort to make our lives a little easier. We used to be on a seven-point

scale whereas all of the other schools in our area were on a ten-point scale, he explained. After much consideration, our high school switched over to this ten-point scale. "While it puts more value on final exams, it helps all of the students. They get a good example of a college experience," he said, adding that he wants every student to have a fair opportunity to get great grades and get into the college of their dreams. He believes that we were being penalized with the previous grading system. For example, if a student got a final grade of 92 percent, he received a "B+", while a student in the next town over could have gotten the same grade but received an "A". When the colleges look at these two transcripts side by side, who do you think they are going to choose to be accepted? Mr. DiEugenio wanted students in Jackson to have a reasonable and honest chance of getting into college. He has recently com-

pared the student body to a basket of apples. You just can't put a group of oranges into a basket that is already full of red apples. With the previous grading system, we were the oranges. We didn't have a fair chance amongst all of the other students in the schools all across Ocean County. Today, with our improved grading system, we are becoming these apples and are able to fairly compete against other schools, but more importantly, we are able to improve our own chances of doing the best of our own potential. Sophomore Netanya Flores is pleased with the recent changes in the grading system. "I think it can benefit the students who have trouble in some of their classes and for other students it may impact their GPAs because it is weighted differently," she said. "I think it is better because it gives students a chance to work harder and really focus on their studies. It also gives them the chance to catch up on missed assignments and

bring their grades up on a different scale." In a recent article published in the Educational Research Newsletter & Webinars, James Carifio and Theodore Carey discuss the pros and cons that come along with the ten-point grading scale. "Just one or two catastrophically low grades could convince the student that no reasonable effort on her or his part can affect the desired outcome of passing the course," write the authors. The new grading system gives students the opportunity to see the potential to succeed and encourage them to keep on trying. It

also helps students get into the colleges of their dreams. Along with these pros come some cons. Some people may argue that a minimum grade softens competency requirements and contributes to grade inflation. These people also say that it offers unfair and unearned assistance to low-performing *continues on page 5...*

### THE JAGUAR JOURNAL

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Editor-in-Chief:	Sophia Samuel
News/Sports Editor:	Jillian Pariniello
Features/Layout Editor:	Jordan Alderman
Photography Coeditors:	Dylan Miller Victoria Migneco
Layout Editor/ Cartoonist:	Briana Jensen
Photographers in this issue:	Victoria Migneco Allison Wanzor Kevin McQuade
Staff writers in this issue:	Sophia Samuel Brendan Korey Netanya Flores Jordan Alderman Maggie Varrelmann Jill Parinello
Graphics Advisor:	Lloyd Taylor
Newspaper Advisors:	Kathleen Reagan Paulette Shavel

Send all comments and questions to jaguarjournal@jacksonsd.org. All layout and design done in-house by Jaguar Graphics.

GPA cont...

students and makes it too easy for them. No matter what people say about the new grading system, the faculty and students at Jackson Memorial High School

know that our new and improved grading system is helping us to become the best we can be.

The new grading system has come with many diverse views. In the be-

ginning of this school year, students, staff, and parents were worried about how the new and improved grading process would turn out. After the first two marking periods, these concerned

individuals were pleasantly surprised. Students responded to it in a positive way and kept on trying their hardest to succeed.

A 90 - 100  
B 80 - 89  
C 70 - 79  
D 65 - 69  
F 45-64  
+ are no longer

# DOES THE EARLY BIRD REALLY CATCH THE WORM?

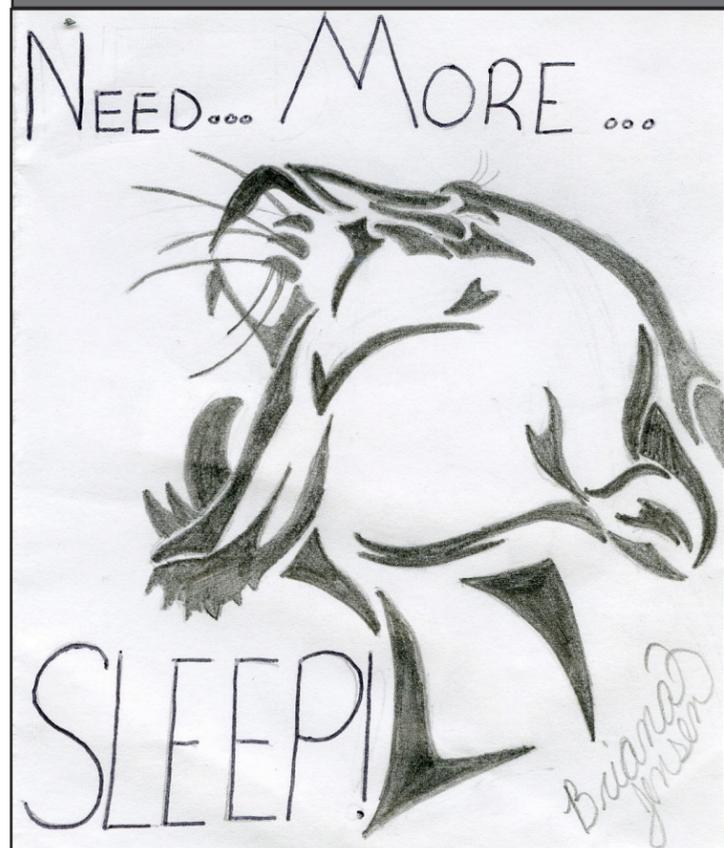
by Netanya Flores

The home-room bell at Jackson Memorial High School rings at 7:15 am, making the school a scheduling nightmare. It's a known fact that most teens in high school value their sleep, especially those whose schedules are chaotic. In today's recent news, New Jersey State Senator Richard Codey proposed a bill to study whether the starting times of schools should be an hour later. He claims that when students start school just as the sun rises, absentee rates and tardiness increase, while the average grades for the first two classes of the day go down. Along with Sen. Codey, studies made by the American Academy of Pediatrics in August of 2014 recommended that middle and high school students should not start school before 8:30 am. As the discussions on the matter begins, educators, parents, and students are realizing that there are both benefits and disadvantages of the proposal.

Sleep deprivation during the high school years can be a struggle; the roots of the problem come from unhealthy sleep habits and too few hours sleeping. A majority of students spend a many hours in school learning and participating in other extracurricular activities; however, they are unable to utilize to the best of their abilities the learning opportunities offered by the education system, since sleep deprivation disturbs their ability to be alert, pay attention, solve problems, and cope with stress and

information. I asked some of our own students who understand the realities and hardships of juggling their academics and extra-curriculars. Among these students is sophomore Margaret Varrelmann who

Benefits	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced risk of teen crashes from drowsiness</li> <li>• Improved academic performances</li> <li>• Improved physical health</li> <li>• Fewer mood changes from sleep deprivation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on extra-curricular activities: music, sports, jobs, volunteer-work</li> <li>• Transportation issues</li> <li>• Parent work schedules</li> <li>• Compromising with younger siblings schedules</li> </ul>



knows what it is like to have to juggle schoolwork and extracurriculars.

"I think proposing this idea will allow students to have a chance for their grades to improve and to give everyone a chance to catch up on what they need to do," she said.

In addition, freshman Ciera Torney says that sometimes it is often hard for her to keep her eyes open during fourth period. "Knowing the type of person I am, an extra hour of sleep would improve my

test scores and I would be more alert during school."

Researches show that teens should get at least eight hours of sleep in order to function the next day. Young people who do not get enough sleep are

Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on extra-curricular activities: music, sports, jobs, volunteer-work</li> <li>• Transportation issues</li> <li>• Parent work schedules</li> <li>• Compromising with younger siblings schedules</li> </ul>

at a higher risk of drowsy driving, mood swings, and of course lower overall performance when it comes to academics and athletics.

Principal Kevin DiEugenio is open to the idea of later school times.

"If the data shared by researchers and studies has been positive, then there should be no huge issue in Jackson. I find no problem in starting later and the idea is much more productive for students." However, while supporting the idea that the 7:30 am

to 8 am start time would be reasonable, he worries that while students would benefit from this change, the buses that transport all ten schools in the district would cost more money.

Mr. DiEugenio also pointed to his college years, and said he believes that high school students should have a "menu of options" when it comes to their high school experience. Our high school seniors, for example, could be offered a collegiate schedule, having classes in a set time period.

While there are the glorious benefits of sleeping in late before school, the change in schedule could greatly impact our school athletics and clubs. Our school's Athletic Director, Michael Walsh, shared his thoughts on the issue at hand.

"Winter sports varsity start times over the years have been moved up to get the students home at a reasonable time; they would be moved back to the 7 to 8 pm start times." He believes that the freshman games that are in the late fall and early spring could not be played on the fields where they are presently played because they do not have lights. The new schedule would require new fields or lighting for exist-

ing fields to accommodate sports such as field hockey, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls lacrosse, he added.

One of the biggest concerns about changing school start times is parent work schedules. When school starts at least 7 in the morning, most parents can see their teens off to school before going to work at 8:30 or 9:00. If school districts change start times to 8:00 or 8:30, parents will not be able to drive their kids to school and still get to work on time. This is a problem especially for parents of young children, as young kids need supervision while getting ready for school and waiting for the school bus. For teens, later school start times may lead to increased responsibility, as parents may have to go to work before school begins.

But according to freshman Tyler Stanger, discipline is the main key to solving scheduling problems.

"As high school students we have the responsibility and common sense to go to bed when we need to. As we are becoming adults, this is our first adult decision, and if we cannot make the right decision, then the system should not adjust to us."

**Some Student Reactions:**

**"Although it would mess up clubs and sports, waking up earlier would prepare us for life after high school." Summer Bryson**

**"Don't change something that isn't broken." Michael Kyriacou**

**"The problem is that you don't gain anything because you just push everything else back an hour, so everything would just end later. People would just have less time to spend at home at night." Chris Kinzler**

**"It's a pro (a good idea). Just this year I've seen three car accidents in the morning and one of my friends fell asleep while driving." Jill Brueckner**

# SENIORS OF THE MONTH



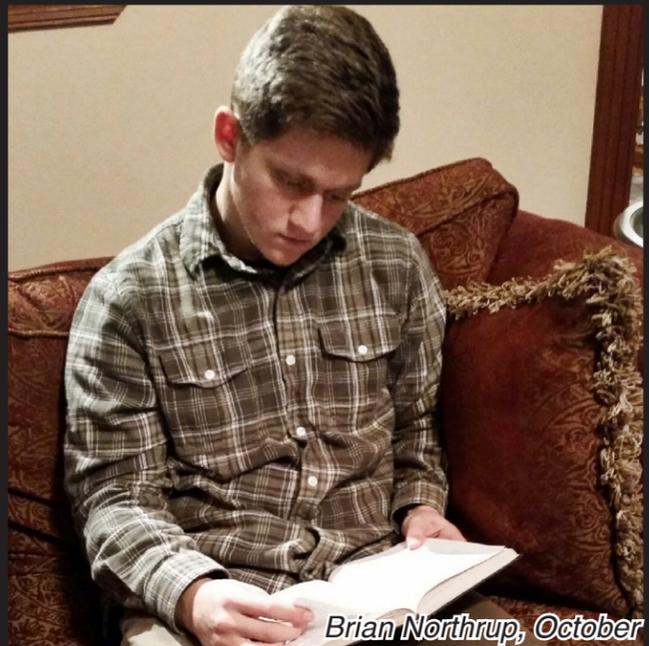
*Gianna Perez, September*

My freshman self would be proud of me, but at the same time she still wouldn't be satisfied with where I'm at because I'm still not satisfied with where I'm at. It won't be good enough until I do it all. I'm not number one, I'm not doing everything, I'm not at the top of everything. I don't feel like I'm at the top of my game yet. When I'm at the top, then I'll be good. I feel like a part of me has been lost since freshman year, but at the same time an inner strength has been gained. I have solidified who I am through meeting new people, leading new people, and doing new things. That kind of makes up for the sense of innocence lost.



*Justin Volpe, September*

A piece of advice I'd give to anyone in general is to get involved. Get involved in your community, get involved in your school, that's really what I try to do. I work after school, I'm really involved in my extra curricular activities and my academics. I put all of myself into everything I do and it reflects itself in my grades and the way people perceive me.



*Brian Northrup, October*

My superpower is my charm. In a room full of silent strangers, there isn't much about me that will stand out from the crowd. But once the silence is broken, and people begin to talk, it becomes noticeable that I have a natural ability to interact with others. I know that not everyone is going to like me, but they don't have to. I'll still kill 'em with kindness.



*Wenting Sun, October*

A piece of advice I'd give to you is to just try your best and even if you don't do well, at least you tried your best and you lost fair and square.



*Alana Coleman, November*

My biggest fear is that I'll never truly find a job that I am passionate about and enjoy doing.



*Tyler Rauch, November*

Nelson Mandela said "after climbing a great hill, one finds that there are many more hills to climb." I kind of look at that as inspiration and the idea that you can't grow complacent in the place you're at. Even though I can say that I'm Senior of the Month, I have this, I have that, I'm in this area, I still want to strive to be better than I am and never be happy with the place that I'm in for too long.