

THE JAGUAR JOURNAL

October 2016

Homecoming 2016

Walking into a Rejuvenated School

By: Maggie Varrelmann and Netanya Flores
Co-Editors-In-Chief

The start of the new 2016-2017 school year welcomed not only new freshmen and returning students, but also new improvements in Jackson Memorial's classrooms and facilities. Our former editor in chief, past 2016 graduate Jillian Parinello gave a glimpse in her own "D-Chat" into the architectural and technological improvements that would help shape the foundation of this year's group of students. As the two newest co-editors in chief of the school newspaper, we decided to sit down with our beloved principal Mr. Kevin DiEugenio to discuss these important changes for our school.

One of the first topics that we discussed concerned the spirit of going back to school. Every year, for seven years, Mr. DiEugenio has been excited for the new school year and this year was no different. Mr. DiEugenio said he could not wait to step into the halls of Jackson Memorial during the late August days. He had so many expectations and wishes for the new school year. During the orientation in August, staff, administration, and student P.A.L.S. welcomed the new freshmen to our school with bright smiles and a warm round of applause. Mr. D cannot wait to see how they have the 'total high school experience' throughout the next four years. This new class will carry on traditions that can last a lifetime, and there is no reason why they cannot succeed in meeting their goals.

On the first day of school, many students walked into a new and improved building full of new changes and updates. The old weight room turned into an incredible

dance studio that can accommodate 40 people easily. This workshop has and will be used by the amazing dance team and cheerleaders. Gym classes will be renovated as well. These courses will make use of the dance studio, most likely for the always popular Square Dance! All in all, the dance studio is one big multi-purpose room equipped with a nice sound system, wood flooring, and even a little disco ball! In our words and those of Mr. D's; "Wow, pretty cool!"

Where is the weight room now you say? The old Tech/Prob Solve room has been turned into a weight room that looks like it was taken right out of a movie. Since August 15th, various sports teams have been using the weight room to prepare for what's to come. For anybody not on a team, do not worry, you can still enjoy the new room. Mr. Malta is the coordinator of the new weight-lifting club. If this sounds like something you would like to do, have a physical form filled out, a \$25 participation fee, and the 2-5 p.m. slot open on your calendar. Do not be afraid to contact Mr. Malta with any questions!

Several tech rooms have been updated with current technology and fascinating objects as well. In order to keep up with the technological age that we are now in, Mr. D has decided to implement "Google Classroom" for every class. His goal is to start "distance learning" for our own Jackson students with other districts or even other states!

"Imagine if our students could discuss the Civil War with students in Virginia!" he said. In addition, he already envisions having robots roaming the Memorial and Clayton hall. A robotics club that will participate in

competition may be in the works also!

Mr. D continues to have dreams and plans for the improvements of this fine institution. Once funds are gathered, he is planning in the future to renovate the Clayton gym and its locker rooms. For instance, storage and locker rooms will be repainted and new "team rooms" will be installed for sports teams like the lacrosse and field hockey teams.

Speaking of looking to the future, Mr. DiEugenio is excited to see the first group of STEM kids graduate next year. These kids have been working hard every single assignment and it is paying off. They will surely succeed in life and be able to accomplish what they want. Currently, the school has a STEM academy, a Digital Media Academy, and a Business Academy. Mr. DiEugenio is hoping to have a new Performing Arts Academy in the future. One can only hope!

After the Class of 2016 left to follow their own dreams, we asked Mr. D what he expected of the Class of 2017. What were his goals and expectations for this group of seniors? His answer: "Continue to climb the ladder of tradition from the previous class." Mr. D said he was already impressed by the leadership and guidance from Student Council President Chris Peruggia and Class of 2017 President Drew Jacobs. The total high school experience is what he wishes for every single one of his students.

"There's no reason why you shouldn't have a great high school experience. I want every senior on graduation day to look back and say they have no regrets," he said.

So Class of 2017, it's up to us to make some noise and make sure that we get remembered.

Charlie Brown Versus the E-mails...

By: Maggie Varrelmann
Co-Editor-In-Chief

“Hey did you hear the announcement this morning?”

“No. I was in the gym and all I heard was something that sounded like the adults in Charlie Brown! Did I miss something important?”

“ Just the fact that you won an award but since you did not show up they gave it to the runner-up”

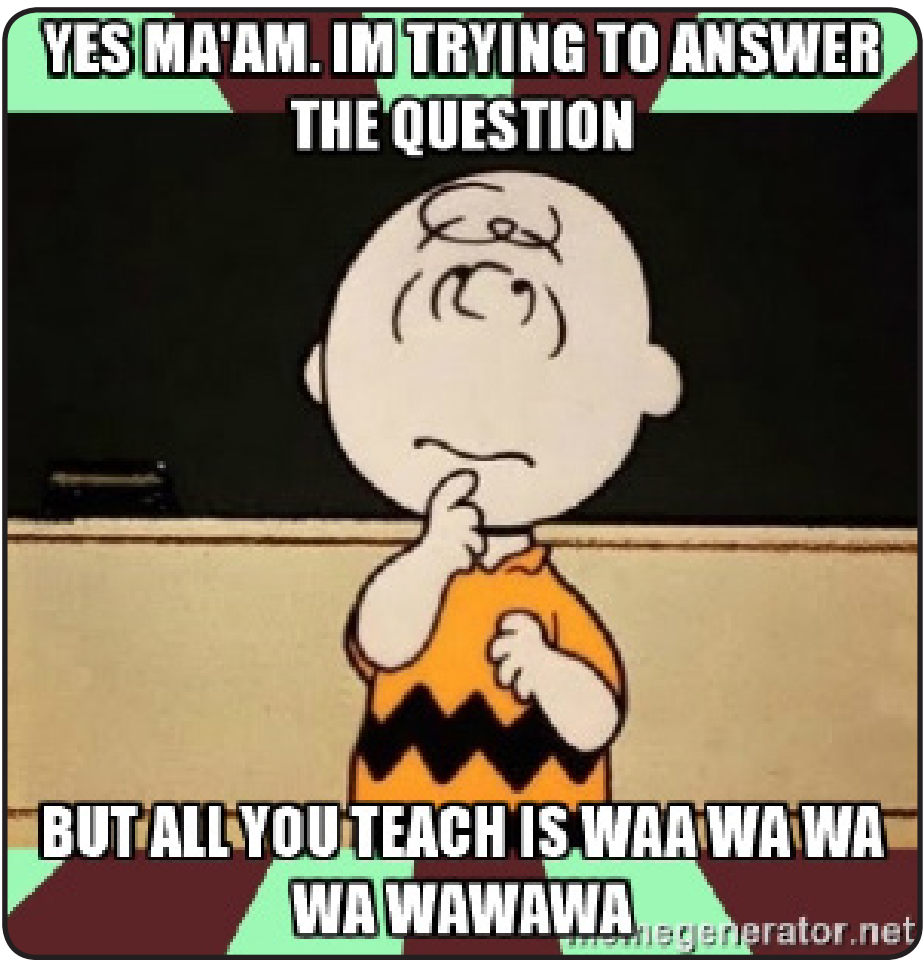
Students miss out on all the little things and the important ones as well when they do not hear the announcements. These messages come on during the morning and the afternoon but how many people actually understand what is being said? The answer to this question is not the best. A great deal of students try to listen to the broadcasts but they are not usually that clear. This miscommunication is not due to a poor quality in the school’s technology. Fellow students are constantly talking and the longer they converse the louder they get. This makes it extremely difficult to comprehend what the announcers are saying. There is nothing wrong with friends talking to friends or coworkers talking to coworkers but there needs to be a solution so that everybody can hear what they want to listen to so they do not miss out.

And there is! I have heard students and staff members talking about it for a long time now. Three to four years ago, the Jackson School District granted every student with a personalized g-mail account. Why not e-mail every student the announcements through them? Technology is improving so why shouldn’t we? Just this year, teachers have been required to have a Google Classroom for each class. These websites allow teachers to share

information with their students, grade papers, and introduce new topics. If we can improve the way we do things through technology why don’t we continue to do so with e-mail.

Sending a mass e-mail to every student would make the school run smoother. Students will know when events are happening, the deadlines for various things, and any other important information they need to know. The e-mails will help keep kids organized and it will make it easier for them to create a schedule for themselves. Students miss out on things when they do not know about them. Sometimes certain announcements are only made once and if you are absent, you may not get the details. With the e-mails, students, present or absent, will be able to stay up-to-date with their school.

In my opinion, this is a great idea and should be implemented right away. Sure, many clubs and sports teams have twitter accounts where they share information, but what is out there for the kids who do not have twitter or any other social networking sites? I personally do not use social media so I have no way of



Courtesy Of: memegenerator.net

knowing when something is happening unless someone e-mails me or tells me in person and I am sure that I am not the only one. The e-mails would not take away from all of these things. They would just be another piece of the puzzle. So at the end of the day would you like to know everything that is going on or listen to the adults on a Charlie Brown episode? Even though I am a major Charlie Brown fan, I know what option

New Traditions At JMHS Band

By: Zachary Nogueras and Ben Singleton
Staff Writers

Last year Jackson Memorial lost an icon: after more than thirty years of working with the music department, Harold “Bud” McCormick retired. Since then, the assistant director at the time, Jason Diaz, has become the new band director. This succession is viewed as an opportunity to move forward and continue the legacy that Bud started.

In middle school Mr. Diaz “caught the bug for music” as he says, and since then has done everything to be around woodwinds, brass, and strings. If it involves music Mr. Diaz has been involved with it. He has directed a vocal ensemble, a community choir, the chorus at Goetz Middle School, and McAuliffe Middle School’s concert and jazz band. He was also the assistant band director at both Jackson Memorial and Jackson Liberty high schools, conductor of the Jackson Memorial musicals and Jackson Memorial’s Jazz Band. When it came time to select a new director for the marching band, there was no question that it would be Mr. Diaz.

The man who took the place of Mr. Diaz as assistant band director is Eric Ficarra. Mr. Ficarra is a young teacher who is enthusiastic about music and marching band. In the past he’s worked with bands such as the Bushwackers Drums and Bugle Corps, the Reading Buccaneers, Monroe Township High School, Middletown North High School, and the University of Delaware Fightin’ Blue Hens.

At the moment, Mr. Ficarra works in both Liberty and Memorial. “I’m really happy and honored to be part of this community. I’m happy to be on both sides of town, to see Jackson at a cross section,” he said. As someone who grew up locally, he recalls watching the Jackson Memorial Band perform and being amazed by the Jaguars. Mr. Ficarra said working with the Jaguars has “been a dream a long time but I never thought it would actually happen.” Now that he’s finally part of the band he’s simply said “It’s surreal.”

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A Recap of this Summer in Hip Hop

By: Dylan Miller
Staff Writer

This summer was certainly an exciting one in the world of hip hop, with DJ Khaled showing us the “🔑s” to success, Frank Ocean coming out of hiding by dropping an album, Desiigner taking the world by storm with two hit singles, and Young Thug rocking a beautiful blue dress.

To kick things off, Kanye West and GOOD Music released the first song off of the upcoming Cruel Winter abum, entitled Champions. “Round and round” the all-star lineup goes on this triumphant track, with a total of 7 verses and the repetition of the hook 5 times, featuring the likes of Ye, Gucci Mane, Big Sean, 2 Chainz, Travis Scott, Yo Gotti, Quavo, and Desiigner. Based off of the success of Cruel Summer, Cruel Winter can only come soon enough. On July 8, Schoolboy Q dropped the Blank Face LP, which has a very distinct Top Dawg Ent./ South Central LA/Compton sound to it. Schoolboy has quite a few hits on the album, such as THat Part feat. Kanye West and the album’s namesake, THat Part. Jonah Bromwich described the album as a “collection of catchy, urgent gangsta rap songs that show the South Central at his charismatic best.”

About a week later, French Montana released the first single off of his upcoming album MC4, No Shopping feat. Drake. French and Drizzy essentially made the classic rap song: brag about money, girls, and alcohol. The song’s beat is simple yet catchy, as well as both rappers’ lines throughout. The song’s video is a weird mix of Drake and French pretending to be golf commentators, making witty quips back and forth but all is forgiven due to Drake’s goofy grin throughout. Some believe Drake’s verse to be responding to a diss track by rapper Joe Budden, who released two diss tracks aimed at Drake. First Meek Mill, now Joe Budden, who will be next to come at the 6 God?

We were then treated to two long-awaited projects. One was the single Tiimmy Turner from Desiigner, appearing first as an acapella freestyle for the XXL 2016 Freshmen Class. Following the freestyle’s release, Desiigner teased

that he would be turning it into a full song, by posting the single’s cover art and snippets of the final track on Twitter. The song evokes an air of melancholy with vocals and the vaguely-gospel trap beat contributing to the conflicting feeling of triumphant and despair.

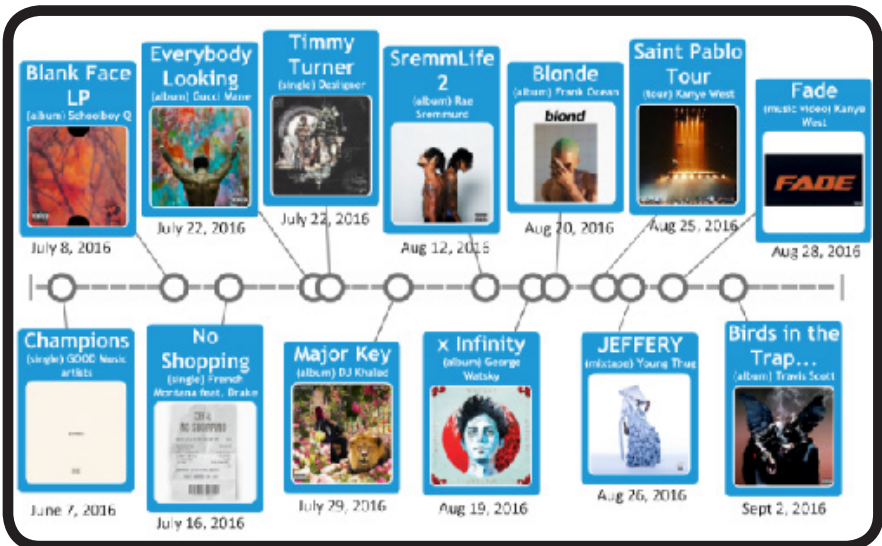
On the same day, Gucci Mane released his ninth studio album, Everybody Looking. The album’s colorful cover art is a testament to its own interesting flare. Gucci’s flow is relaxed but aggressive. The album features production work from Drumma Boy alongside Mike Will Made-It and Zaytoven and features from various artists.

Next came the album of the summer, DJ Khaled’s Major Key. Khaled’s album feels like a hip hop all-star game with features from: JAY Z, Future, Drake, Big Sean, Kendrick Lamar, Nicki Minaj, Lil Wayne, Wiz Khalifa. And that’s not even all of the artists featured on the album’s 14 tracks. Even Meghan Trainor is featured on the album! Khaled primed himself to renew his status as a media mogul and take over as one of 2016’s most influential individuals. The album has multiple standout tracks, in the words of the man himself, it has “another one, another one, [and] another one.” There’s only one way to describe DJ Khaled’s summer success: MAJOR

🔑 ALERT.

August saw the release of SremmLife 2 from the rap duo Rae Sremmurd. The month also saw Frank Ocean come out of hiding and dropping Blonde (stylized as Blond). An eclectic R&B tale of heartbreak, high-riding emotions, strangely electronically altered vocals, Blonde is an album that requires the right mood and atmosphere to be enjoyed. It is an interesting mix of experiment and pure creative energy.

Next was George Watsky’s x Infinity which combines hip hop, rock, pop, and R&B



Courtesy of Dylan Miller

vibes to create an exciting, intense, and sometimes thought-provoking album. Exquisite Corpse is a feature packed tale of zombies, robots, and terrible rappers, including Daveed Diggs, former cast member of the Broadway hit Hamilton.

Young Thug defied gender-norms and wore a light blue dress on the cover of his mixtape JEFFERY. The mixtape itself is just as colorful as Thugger himself. His flow is unpredictable and sometimes unstable. He does his own thing and states “I feel like there’s no such thing as gender.” Sheldon Pearce says “this refusal to define or label himself, and this progressive spirit that makes everything he does so daring and so mystifying.”

Travi\$ Scott released his album Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight on September 2, which includes such tracks as goosebumps feat. Kendrick Lamar and pick up the phone feat. Young Thug and Quavo. Finally, on September 22, The Weeknd reemerged, dropping his newest single, Starboy feat. Daft Punk, which has peaked at 3 on the Billboard Hot 100 and reaching #1 on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop. The song is a commentary on the negative effects of fame on himself, and how the fast-life and drugs began to cause him to go into a downward spiral. This summer was a busy one in the world of hip hop. Hopefully the rest of 2016 and all of 2017 will be just as enjoyable for us hip hop fans.

Movie Review

By: Lindsay Bischoff
Staff Writer

The book *Miss Peregrine’s Home For Peculiar Children* and its movie adaptation were both financial successes, but in almost every other aspect, the two are very different. Apart from the story itself, the movie showed an entirely new vision of the characters.

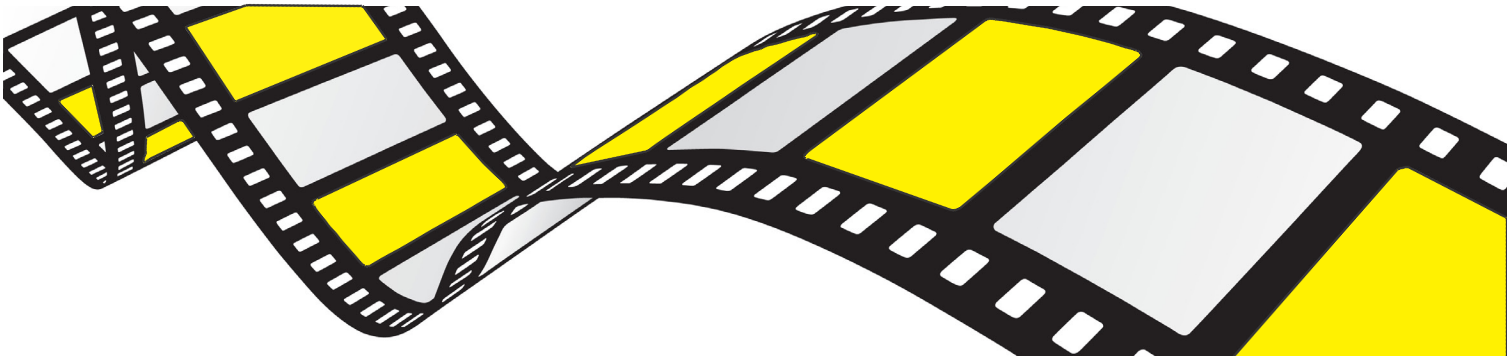
This includes the changed ages of the children - most of the children are actually a bit older in the book. And the characters of Emma and Olive seems to have been switched. Emma, the blonde lead in the movie, has the ability to control air; whereas in the book her name is

Olive and she is far younger. In the novel, Jake’s love interest is Emma; she can control fire, and her age is the same.

Olive finds love in Enoch, a character that has the ability of bringing things to life. In the novel he is much younger. It seems as though they switched Enoch and ‘Olive’s in-movie love story for the novel’s couple Hugh and Fiona. In both the book and movie, Hugh has bees living inside him, and Fiona is able to control the earth. In the movie, they are too young to even think of romance.

The novel ends rather abruptly, leaving

readers on the edge of their seats and happy that a second book exists. This changes in the movie; instead of leaving on a cliffhanger, the last few scenes of the film were taken from the second book. Such changes have left avid readers of the series in uproar. However, due to the author of the books’ approval and praise of director Tim Burton’s changes, many readers have accepted and enjoyed watching the film. Overall, with or without having read the series, any one person could see the movie and fall in love with the story, the characters, and the peculiar setting.



Class of 2015's Paw Print

By: Netanya Flores and Kaitlyn Sauickie
Staff Writers

The 50th anniversary of Jackson Memorial High School was celebrated in 2015, but the essence of the memories it has left behind still resonates in our school's hallways. The graduated Class of 2015, busily chasing their own dreams out in the world, made it their priority before they left their Jackson home to mark their 'paw print' by burying a time capsule on school grounds.

Their way of leaving this mark was an idea created by a collaboration of 2015 senior officers, and Foreign Language teachers Mrs. Cafara and Mrs. Mousavi. The idea was to create a time capsule, filled with all sorts of different things, such as class photos, programs, yearbooks, schedules and memorabilia that will make sure the last 50 years are never forgotten.

The time capsule they used was a sealed, narrow silver box that is buried in the "senior green." It is near a big boulder and on it reads a plaque: "Dedicated from the Class of 2015. Commemorating 50 years." The capsule will be reopened in twenty five years, according to Mrs. Cafara. Why

twenty five years, you ask? Mrs. Cafara explained that while she and Mrs. Mousavi do plan to attend the reopening ceremony of the time capsule with not only the Class of 2015 but also the future Class of 2040, Mrs. Mousavi fears that fifty years might be pushing it, jokingly stating, "I'll hopefully still be alive in twenty five years."

The class of 2015 and both teachers put all of their work into making sure this time capsule truly represents not only the class of 2015, but also the last 50 years that have defined our school and shows what it is really like to be a true "jaguar" at Jackson Memorial high school. Even class president of 2015 Justin Volpe says, "I think that the time capsule is a perfect way to preserve the very essence of Jackson Memorial's 50 years after it opened. It is a spot that we (the class of 2015) can go to and reflect upon our time at Jackson Memorial. I look forward to reuniting with my class again to see the contents in 25 years. It just goes to show that Jaguar pride never dies."



From Top to Bottom: Kellyanne Young, Anijah Hudson, Justin Volpe



"We'll Do It Live"

By: Dylan Miller
Staff Writer

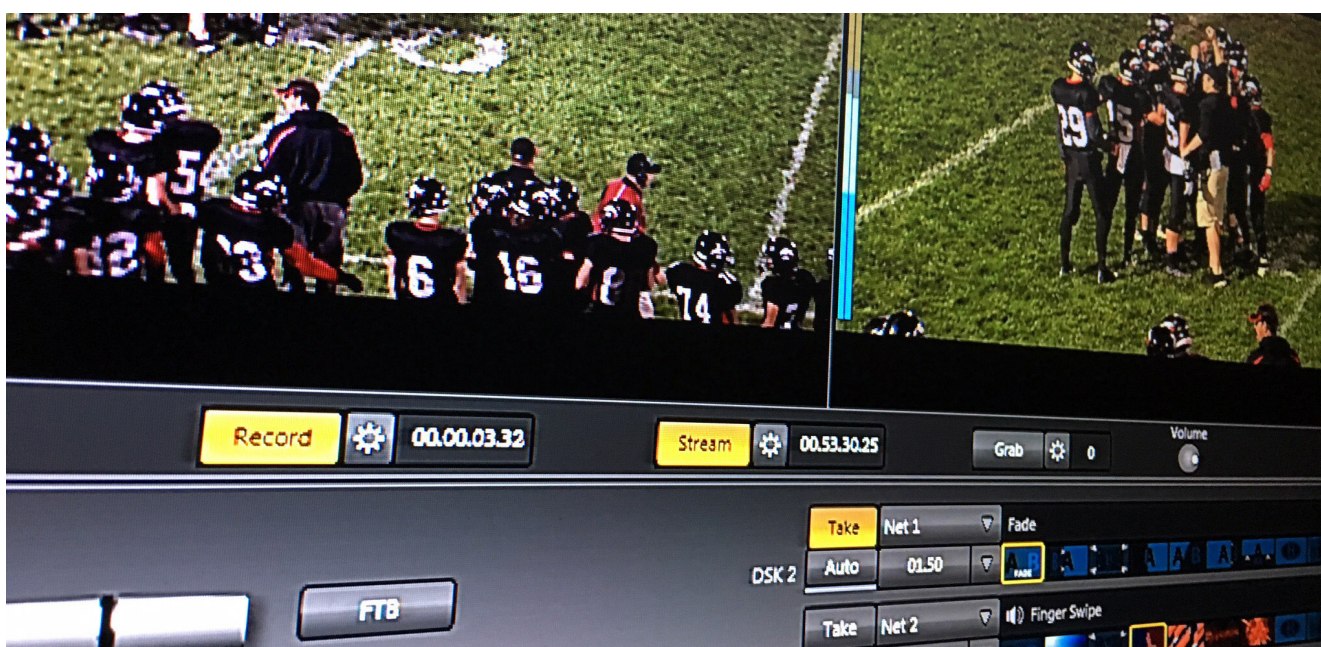
Jackson Television, better known as JTV, has always been on the cutting edge of offering students opportunities to work with emerging technologies, and this year is no exception. Nearly every event that JTV films this year will be live streamed on both the JTV YouTube channel, as well as the JTV Cablevision channel. (Links and information below), even though shoots have always been treated as "live" –to provide students with real-world broadcast experience–there has always been peace of mind knowing that something can be edited after the

fact. This year, however, the pressure is on.

Even though we are live streaming nearly every event this year, going live isn't something JTV hasn't done before. In fact, JTV conducted a pilot-program at the end of the last school year, with both middle- and high schools' graduations being broadcast live. And, multiple other events have been live broadcast over the years, including the annual ROTC Memorial Day Ceremony and last year's G-rim Reaper project. It is important to note that not every event will be live streamed this year. Plays and musicals will not be broadcast live due to copy-

right and licensing issues.

As a member of the crew myself, I can certainly say that it makes things interesting. It adds a whole new dimension to each shoot, and it makes everything more intense; flawless sequences are more rewarding and mistakes are more serious because we know for a fact that someone is watching. Going live hasn't been the easiest process–lots of things can, and do, go wrong–but every hiccup is worth it, especially knowing that we are bringing the action and events to a much larger audience.



Ciao, Mr. Melendez!

By: Kaitlyn Sauickie
Staff Writer

When you enter C wing in the Clayton building, you probably notice all the different languages used in signs and posters. Last year, a new language joined the collection of cultures. So say “ciao!” to Italian! The course offers a wide overview of the Italian culture, and the new Italian teacher, Mr. Diego Melendez, helps students understand what it is like to be an Italian citizen.

Mr. Melendez grew up in a city environment with diverse cultures and languages. Spanish was his first language, soon followed by English and French, and he currently is studying Arabic, making him more than just an average Italian teacher.

“I really do enjoy languages,” said Mr. Melendez. “I think it’s fun. If you learn a new language, it’s like learning a whole new culture.”

Mr. Melendez first wanted to become an Italian teacher when he attended college at Rutgers University, originally choosing Italian as a minor. That soon changed as soon as he started studying the language. He soon changed his major to Italian.

“The more and more I learned Italian and the more I took classes, it felt like something I really wanted to do,” he said. He later found out about the teaching programs offered at Rutgers and soon decided he wanted to be a teacher of Italian.

During his junior year, he studied abroad in the small town of Ferrara, Italy for about four months. He studied with a group of 15 students from all over the United States, taking classes and exploring the beautiful country of Italy with them. Because of his experience

in speaking the language during that time, Mr. Melendez went from know a little bit of Italian to becoming very fluent in the language.

Mr. Melendez took his first teaching job right here at Jackson Memorial High School, spreading the knowledge he had learned about the language and the culture of Italy. He loves to interact with his students in both Italian I and II classes.

“I don’t think that students should just be sitting and having their heads down writing,” said Mr. Melendez. “I think the best thing you can do in a language class is to be active and interact with the language.”

So far the new language added to the school has been “Molto bene!” with more students signing up for the class and others considering signing up next year.



Mr. Melendez teaching the basics of Italian during the “Fate Adesso” or Do Now

New Traditions At JMHS Band cont..

Mr. Diaz didn’t want to create a show entirely detached from previous years; instead, he wanted to bridge the gap between old and new. His idea was to pick Americana theme music. This theme has been present in several of the popular shows the Jaguars had performed in the past, such as their famous Civil War show. In line with this theme, Mr. Diaz choose to use American composers, and with his vast knowledge of music, he quickly found the songs he wanted: “Fanfare for the Common Man,” “American Salute,” “Make Our Garden Grow,” and “Simple Gifts”. Finally, Mr. Ficarra wrote the percussion feature, thus making it into a complete show.

Through a drum corps style of directing, Mr. Ficarra hopes to achieve a high level of precision in the visual and marching aspect of the band. Meanwhile, Mr. Diaz’s expertise means he mainly focuses on the musicality of the band and hopes to refine the band’s sound. Mr. Diaz and Mr. Ficarra share a common goal: For the kids to have fun, to enjoy this process, to have a great show, something they’re proud of. To walk off the field and say ‘I did this’.

Wherever the band may go, both teachers hope to inspire excellence and to continue leading the band towards its goal.



Artwork by: Jessica Whitteaker

SENIORS OF THE MONTH



Rachel Northrup, September

When I graduate from Jackson Memorial High School, I will miss all the amazing activities I have participated in and the teachers who have made a lasting impact on my life. Out of all the extracurriculars I am a part of, I will definitely miss the Jackson Memorial Jaguar Band the most. The Jaguar Band is unlike any other program in this school, and is unlike any other band in the area. Being a part of this program has given me a family of over two hundred people, an overwhelming sense of pride, and unique memories that will last a lifetime. Additionally, I will miss all the dedicated teachers who make learning each day such an enjoyable experience. I am extremely grateful for the teachers who always have their doors open not only for extra help with work, but to talk about life or to share a good laugh. Overall, I will miss all the people and opportunities at Jackson Memorial High School that have allowed me to grow and thrive.



Christopher Peruggia, September

The four years I have spent at Jackson Memorial have easily been four of the most memorable years of my life. When asked to name my biggest accomplishment, many things come to mind, however, none are bigger than becoming the Student Council President. Given the chance to be the voice of the school, I took the opportunity and ran with it, refusing to look back. Although I have been a part of Student Council each of my high school years, no position holds the weight that the President does. I am excited to be able to represent the school at the Board of Ed meetings as well as speaking on behalf of the student body when it comes to making administrative decisions. As President, it has been my mission to give back to JMHS as much as it has given to me, and to provide all of the students with the amazing opportunities I have had, as well as many more. A word of advice I have received from many people was that high school is extremely stressful, but you should make the most of it. Jackson Memorial not only provides all the opportunities to have a pleasant high school experience, but to have one of the best experiences of a lifetime.

Happy Halloween!

