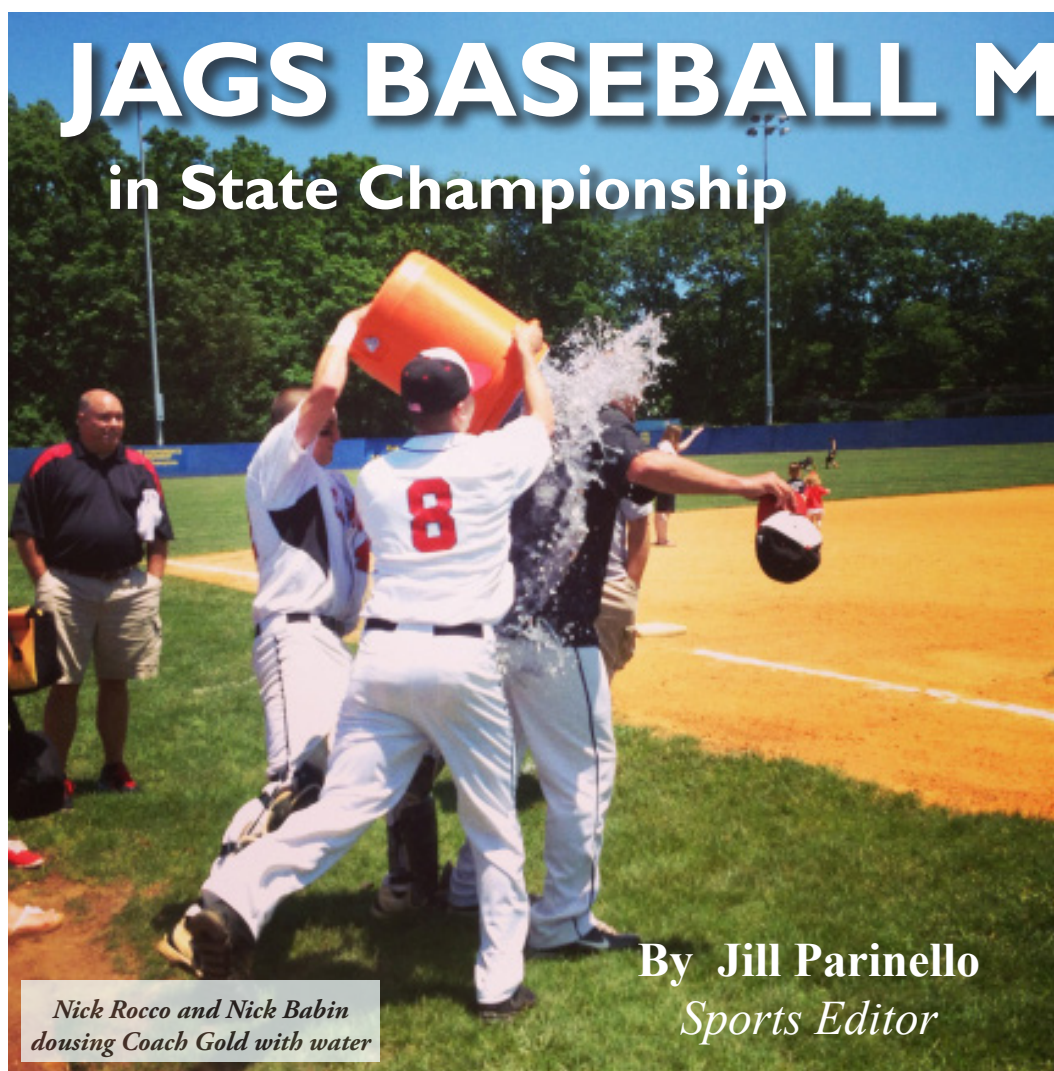




THE JAGUAR Journal

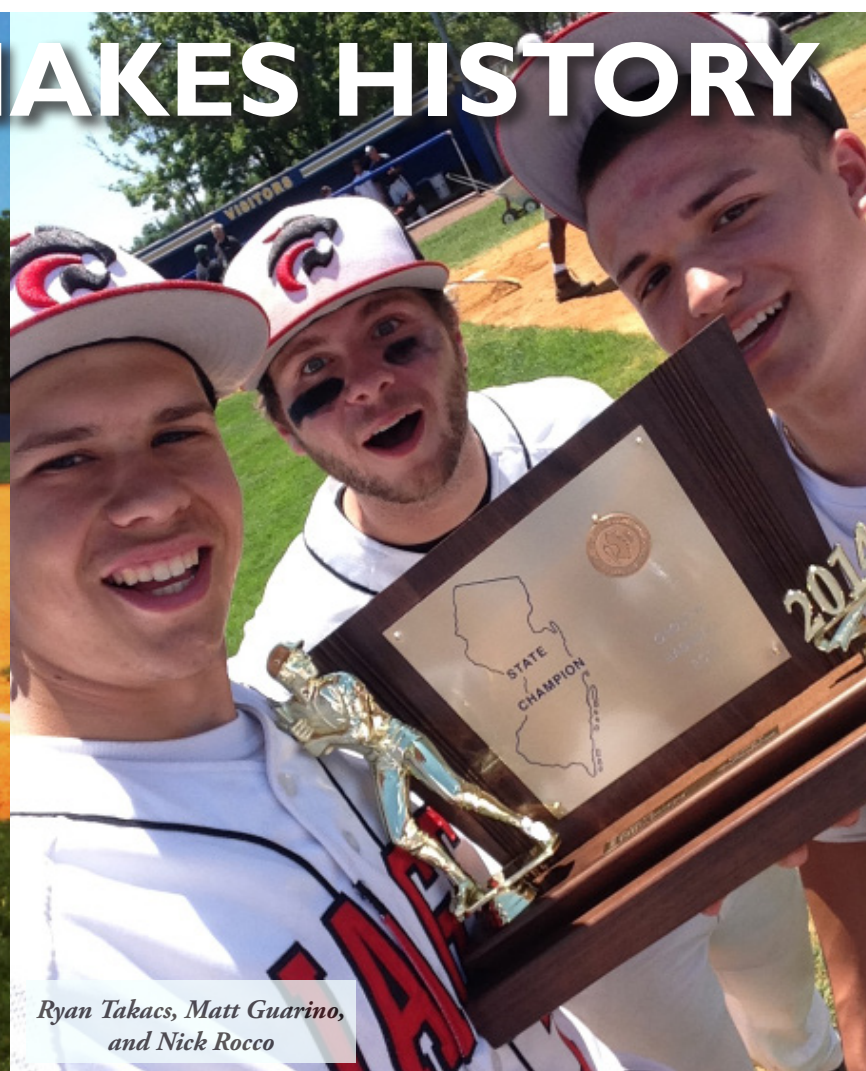


JAGS BASEBALL MAKES HISTORY in State Championship



*Nick Rocco and Nick Babin
dousing Coach Gold with water*

By Jill Parinello
Sports Editor



*Ryan Takacs, Matt Guarino,
and Nick Rocco*

The baseball team's unwavering dominance was finally validated this year with their state championship victory. Jackson Memorial is constantly putting solid teams on the diamond, which is why it is hard to believe that this is the boys' first year going the distance in 42 years! Fortunately for the Jaguars, many years of exceptional play have culminated with their 2014 State Championship.

It has been said that the lineup for the Jaguars was not as stacked as in years past. However, understanding their strengths and weaknesses as a team

allowed the team to feed off of each other with scrappy hits and the occasional long ball - evidently a formula for success. Junior Nick Rocco notes that the team's motto was "compete everyday." With that being said, maybe the Jaguars did not have the flashiest lineup in the state this year, but they ended up playing the best as a team because of their one common goal.

Post season baseball is not friendly for teams relying on one arm. With two pitchers going undefeated in the state tournament, it is clear that the Jaguars were prepared to go deep into the postseason. Senior Matt Guarino and junior

Brandon Janofsky had a big hand in the team's victory on the hill throughout the tournament. Janofsky capped off the season with an ERA of 0.89.

No team wins a state championship in a single game, but it is possible to lose the state championship in one game. Memorial faced Roxbury in the Group IV Title game. Capping off one of the strongest seasons in school history, the Jaguars brought their championship mindset to the finals. Outpitching, outpitching and committing zero errors against Roxbury, Jackson earned the title during every pitch.

"We were up and down

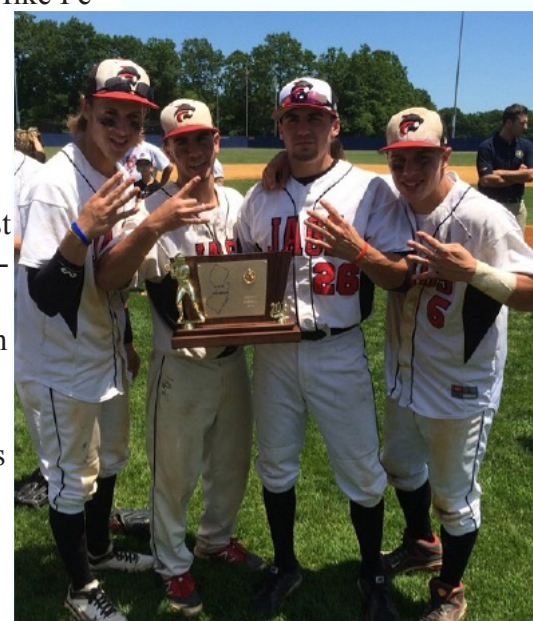
all year but we finished on top" said Janofsky following his one hit effort on the mound against Roxbury. Impeccable defense complimented by hits from Kyle Johnson, Mike Petrizzo, Joe DeMaio, and Rich Rountree finalized the Jags Championship season, their first State Championship since 1972. Second baseman John Carello reflected on the team's relentless pursuit.

"It was an honor to be part of history," he

said.

Surely enough, the baseball team's win will instill pride in Jaguar Baseball for years to come.

Joe Demeio, Brandon Janofsky, Nick Dabrio, and Kyle Johnson



Safe Driving at JMHS

By Larissa Scanlon
Staff Writer

Crash! It’s all over. Everything you have worked hard for and all of your dreams are gone in the blink of an eye; the text, the phone call, or that one last drink suddenly seem unimportant. Was any of it worth your life? No. It never is, and we students only come to such a conclusion when it’s too late. This spring here at JMHS, students and faculty have all come together to take part in the Grim Reaper Project headed by Officer Colin Menafra and Mrs. Michele McCann. This project allows a student to partake in a simulated experience of what it would be like to be dead one week, to be treated like a criminal, and to walk around with the “grim reaper” hanging over her shoulder. Every year there are between 30 and 40 students that take part in the Grim Reaper Project and every year the experience is one to remember. Although it might seem trivial to some, by the end of the week the senior class

realizes the significance behind it. At the conclusion of the project, each senior that was “dead” for the week (no talking, no texting, and no technology) presents a narrative about how they ended up being a fatality or a criminal. Mrs. McCann states: “The assembly is what makes the difference; to allow participating students to write about their death changes them. Not a single student in the audience is using her cell phone. There were almost 400 seniors in the auditorium, yet you could barely hear a pin drop.” This project not only affects those who take part, but also those who are the bystanders and see what it is like to have their friends unable to communicate with them for a week. It casts an eerie feeling through the hallways and impacts all students. Mr. Menafra explains: “Teachers, police officers, and parents can only preach about safe driving so much. Everyone knows that texting behind

the wheel and getting behind the wheel intoxicated is wrong, but it is different when your peers start preaching it. This project basically comes down to decision-making, and that comes down to each individual student.” JMHS has been taking part in the Grim Reaper Project for the past 7 years and has no plan of stopping. The dedication of both Mrs. McCann and Officer Menafra is why this project continues to make a difference in students’ lives. The seniors who have participated deserve a round of applause for their efforts to make the assembly the best one yet. So, as the end of the year rapidly approaches, JMHS reminds students once again to stay safe and to remember what Mrs. McCann tells her senior class every Friday: “Friends don’t let friends drive drunk.”

S.A.D.D. Club Happily Seeks New Members

By Kelly Anne Young
Staff Correspondent

Jackson Memorial High School’s S.A.D.D. club (Students Against Drunk Driving) is a new organization that promotes safe driving and good decisions. Its goal is to warn teenagers of the dangers and consequences of bad judgments as well to make a positive impact on our Jaguar community. With the assistance of Ms. Stenta and Vice Principal Mr. Brunson, the students of this club are able to encourage their peers to help stimulate awareness. On April 10th, the students decided to place their focus on the risks taken by texting and driving. Promoted by AllState Insurance, the “X the Text” campaign was able to play a role in the Memorial Cafeteria for all lunch periods. Students inked their thumbs, left their print on a card, and signed a pledge stating that they

would not text and drive. Afterwards, they received a thumb ring that reads, “JST DRV”. The large number of students who participated in this event demonstrates that our community is beginning to realize the dangers of distractions in the car. It’s working! With this amazing contribution from JMHS students, the S.A.D.D club will increasingly make its name and message clear for the whole town to hear. New members are always welcome to join as this club meets every other Wednesday in the guidance office. All are welcome!

THE JAGUAR JOURNAL

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All layout and design done in-house by Jaguar Graphics.

The PARCC Test:The New NJASK and HSPA

By **Sophia Samuel**
News Editor

PARCC, Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, is the new and improved standardized test that will replace New Jersey’s current NJASK and HSPA next year. It will be administered to students in grades 3 through 8 and to students enrolled in English 1,2, and 3, Algebra 1 and 2, and Geometry. Mr. Baginski, Director of Assessment and District Test Coordinator for the PARCC test, explains that the test covers English and Math topics and that it will eventually become a graduation requirement. Colleges will also use the PARCC test to see if students need any remedial course work in English or Math. Unlike the NJASK and HSPA, PARCC will be administered online. Because of the vast amount of students, JMHS has purchased a number of Chromebooks on which students will take the PARCC. It will be scored on a range of 1 to 5, similar to an AP test. The PARCC test consists of predominately higher-level questions than those that have appeared on the NJASK and HSPA; it will assess a student’s ability to interpret and analyze. Mr. Baginski explains: “The PARCC test is definitely more challenging because it is fully aligned with the common core standards, which are much more rigorous and demanding than ever before.” He advises students not to study for the PARCC because classes should provide a foundation for which a student can succeed on the test. Mr. Baginski notes: “I think students will like the online format. I think it has a lot of promise, but it’s a new culture in schools and it’s going to shift things pretty considerably.”



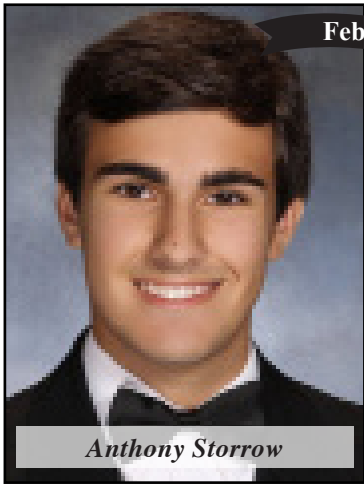
The Walking Wallpaper

By **Jordan Alderman**
Staff Writer

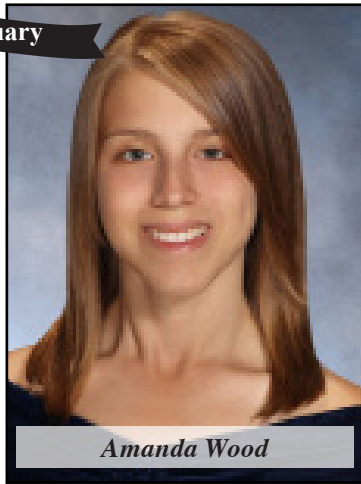
She tells me, eyes glittering and hands gesturing, “I believe you should always do things one-hundred and ten percent, because you never know what opportunities can stem from just scrubbing floors.” Ms. Ivonne Gretener is just one shining star in our school. She has a history in this school district of hard work and resulting advances in her positions. “I mean, I’m only here now because someone took note of me. I used to work at Goetz,” she explains. Her determined attitude toward all her work brought the attention of administrators and guidance counselors in both schools. Although students tend to walk past custodial workers as if they were a portion of the wallpaper, this successful woman has shown that no one is truly just part of the background. On April 29th and 30th, Ms. Gretener took two personal days but still came into school. During several periods each day, she advised the cooking classes on the process of making homemade empanadas. “Kids are curious. Plus food can be a way to bring people together; if it looks good it tastes good.” According to this top empanada specialist and culinary chef, empanadas are “kinda like Italian calzones, but smaller and less cheese.” The empanada is comprised of dough and essentially any fillings from meats to sweets. She basically makes empanadas at the speed of sound. “I can make about one hundred an hour, sometimes more.” Granted, this is with pre-prepared dough. However, that is nonetheless astounding. Not only is she a culinary star, Ms. Gretener created career day at Goetz. After hearing of all her various successes I just had to ask her how she managed to accomplish so much. “I do everything above and beyond—even just scrubbing floors, because you can’t know where that will get you. I mean, that’s where I started -- and now I have my own business.” She explains that seeing forward is necessary in order to expand one’s opportunities and this is why she always looks forward, working on things to the highest degree she can. Ms. Gretener has a beautiful history of giving back to this community and she plans to continue this trend in and out of the cooking classes here at Memorial.

Seniors of the Month for Semester Two

February



Anthony Storrow

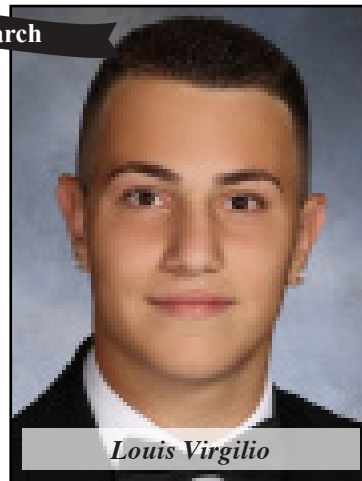


Amanda Wood

March



Gina Marino

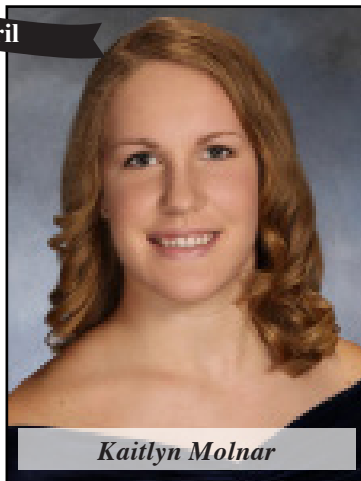


Louis Virgilio

April

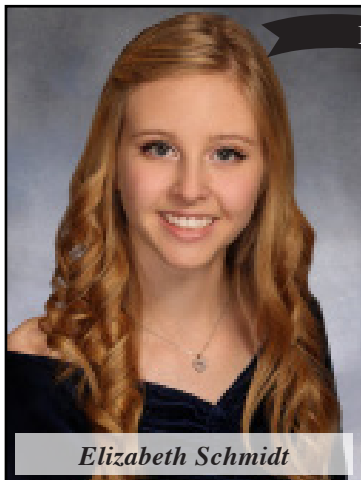


Garrett Muzikowski

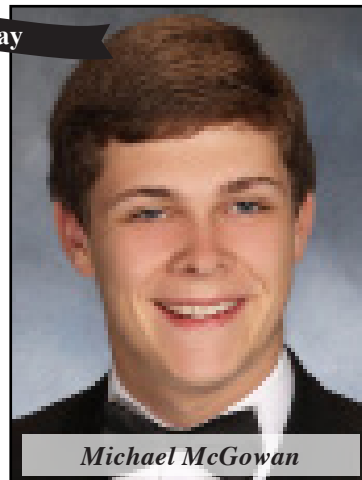


Kaitlyn Molnar

May

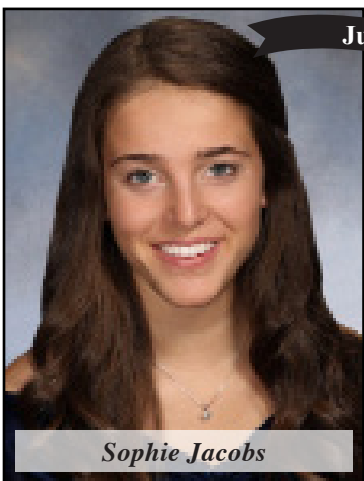


Elizabeth Schmidt



Michael McGowan

June



Sophie Jacobs



Jan Niec

Congrats to all Seniors!