



New Safe Driving Poster and Teacher Wallpaper Created by Breann Pinkham

Final Exams More Important Than Ever

By Kenneth Bradley
Staff Correspondent

As the first semester of another school year comes to a close, one concern for students is that final exams are now 25 percent of the overall grade. In the past, students did not have to perform as well on a final exam if their grades were already sufficient. Now, a bad final exam can mean a full letter grade difference.

Principal Kevin DiEugenio supports the change and believes it is important for all students to study and do well on their finals no matter what their grade is going into the test. He said the success

of students in the classroom is a matter of pride for Jackson Memorial.

“Some people are surprised by our academic excellence, but everyone here knows what we as a school are capable of,” he said. This has been proven statistically as Jackson Memorial ranks first in academics among Group IV schools in Ocean County, he said, and third overall in Ocean County.

Another highlight for the new school year is the cleanliness of our school. Thanks to the new custodial crew, the school is taking steps to create a cleaner environment.

New lighting and painting has not only contributed to a cleaner school, but all of the students seem to have a more positive attitude throughout the day. Every weekend the hallways are cleaned and the floors are waxed. New molding around the base of the halls in the Memorial wing is being installed.

Mr. DiEugenio complimented the new custodians on their work and is grateful that students take pride in keeping the school clean. The next important step is installing an updated security system, funded by a state grant. By next year, he

said there will be proximity locks on all exterior doors and key card locks to open these doors. To also help with security, cameras will be updated and new cameras will be installed inside and out, bringing the total number of cameras in the school to 32.

After security, Mr. DiEugenio plans to use the grant money for a new public address (PA) system. The highly anticipated air conditioning still has to be voted on because it would be financed with both state and local funds. As of now, he cannot say whether or not there will be air conditioning next

year.

Lastly, Mr. DiEugenio spoke about the importance of continuing traditions here at Jackson Memorial. He said students value the traditions of the high school experience and love being a Jaguar. He credits the strong leadership of the senior class as a motivating factor. Students support one another and rally around each other at all times.

Mr. DiEugenio is especially proud of this as it represents his motto of “Family, Pride and Tradition.”

A Cleaner JMHS

By Alex Halfinger
Features Editor

A new broom sweeps clean in the halls of JMHS. This year, people stopped littering and started caring. Since the year started, students, teachers, and the administration have shown an immense amount of respect for their Jaguar home and have kept it cleaner than ever. Ever since I started my senior year, I have noticed the lack of crumbled papers, soda cans, empty bottles, and even abandoned pencils and pens. The floors appear to be shinier, the walls appear brighter, and even the lockers give off a vibrant glow.

Although the custodians contributed towards the new pristine look, some credit also goes to the people that fill the school. With the addition to more trash cans, and more instruction to not litter, students and staff have learned to put their trash where it rightfully belongs. The tidiness has even spread to our new

freshmen. Another major factor in the dirt-free hallways is the promotion of recycling and conservation of paper. Ever since the school has gone green, teachers began assigning class work on com-

puters, and the worksheets are now online. This reduces the amount of papers given out, thrown away, or left for litter. When teachers must provide paper for their students, they ask them to recycle the papers and not leave clutter on the floor. With that, cafeterias in both the Clayton and Memorial buildings have recycling bins for students to throw away their cans and anything plastic or metal. With this growing technique, students become more technologically adapted and environmentally involved. This keeps them from disposing of their garbage all around the school.

As an experienced Jaguar, I can say that Jackson Memorial has vastly improved in the past three years. The new technology, fresh paint, better lights, and valuable security systems are a reassuring sign of the positive direction this school is going in, and finally, cleanliness can be added to the list. Let's sweep away the old JMHS, and welcome the newer, better, and refreshing Jackson Memorial High School.



Comic by Brianna Jensen

Key Club: An Organization of Heroes

By Madison Oxx
Staff Writer

The Key Club does many things throughout the year to help the community and now, more and more students are realizing just how beneficial community service can be. From running food drives to collecting money to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, the Key Club is striving to make a difference in this world and they have been very successful so far. Last year, \$70,000 was raised in just the New Jersey Key Clubs alone. Mr. James Pate, Key Club advisor for the past eleven years, says that Jackson Memorial High School's Key Club has raised \$500 of its goal of \$1,000 this year.

The past few years, there haven't been many people joining Key Club, despite its previous popularity. The amount of students in Key Club had dropped from about 100 to less than 25 due to the new "Pay to Play" participation fee which states that

activities that require a paid advisor will charge students involved a \$25.00 fee for the year. Students became unsure of how this worked and if they really wanted to pay \$25.00 to participate in Key Club, but gradually, students began to get used to the fee and started to join clubs again. Students are also realizing that colleges

bound to be more successful. Two out of the last three years, Key Club has been number one in their division for community service hours. They have sponsored two breakfasts with Santa to help underprivileged children, a dinner for the homeless in Lakewood, blood drives, and food drives. Coming up, they plan to sponsor breakfast with the Easter Bunny and a convention at Ocean Place Resort for key clubbers.

Their biggest project this year, however, is their Eliminate Project, which means trying to prevent and eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus for UNICEF. This deadly disease takes the lives of nearly 60,000 innocent babies and many women each year. The Key Club is working to prevent this by collecting money for UNICEF.

put a lot more emphasis on community service nowadays. The number of people in the Key Club began to rise again with each year. This year, there are about 80 students in the Key Club and Mr. Pate says, "A school this size, that's about the size the club should be."

Also, with more members in Key Club, it is



Tri-M Music Honors Society 2013-2014 Inductees

By Sophia Samuel
Features Editor

The Tri-M Music Honors Society awards students for outstanding achievement in the area of music. Edmund Robertson, music teacher and advisor of Tri-M, inducted the following students to the Tri-M Music Honors Society on January 14, 2014:

KAITLYN BOYCE
JILLIAN BRUECKNER
YUANNING CAI
JAMIE CASELLA
MEGHAN CASPER
DANIELLE COCO
ABIGAIL COOK
DAN DIMEMMO
JULIANNE DIMEMMO
ALEXANDER EISENSCHMIED
ANDREW EISENSCHMIED
MARLEY ENDEE
RICHARD FERNANDEZ
LAUREN GUZMAN
AMANDA HINTON
TAYLOR HURLE
TYLER KESSLER
AMANDA KIRK
ROBERT KNAUF
JENNIFER LEWIS
KATEY LOFTUS
KIMBERLY MACDONALD
ANA MASTROKALOS

ERIN MCDERMITT
CAITLIN MCCORMICK
MEGAN MCCORMICK
VICTORIA MCKEOWN
JACOB MOORE
MALLORY MURPHY
SUZANNE O'DONNELL
JESSICA O'LEARY
THOMAS PARRISH
PUTTIPONG PROMSOOK
CELINE RABO
ASHLEY RAKOW
RACHEL RICCIARDULLI
KELLY RYAN
GRACE SHARPE
SARAH SHARPE
DYLAN SIDALI
GIANNA STORROW
DAN TATE
DANIEL THOMAS
SELIN TORENLI
ANDREW WOOD
JUSTYNA ZALEWSKI

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Editor-in-Chief:	Billy Bates Danielle Singer	memorial.jacksonsd.org
News Editor:	Sophia Samuel	
Features Editor:	Alex Halfinger	
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Photographers in this issue:	Dylan Miller	
Staff writers in this issue:	Kenneth Bradley Alex Halfinger Madison Oxx Sophia Samuel Caroline Brown	
Advisors:	Ms. Kathleen Regan and Mrs. Paulette Shavel	
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A Dream In The Making

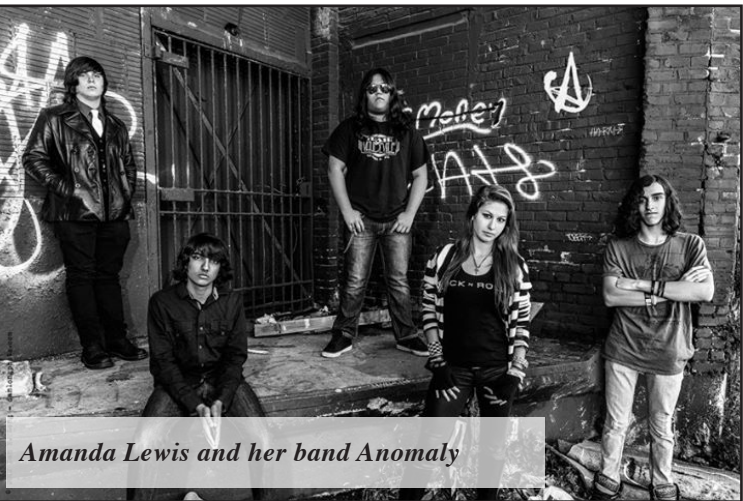
By **Sophia Samuel**
Features Editor

Amanda Lewis, a seventeen-year-old junior at Jackson Memorial High School, is living her dream as a rock singer and musician. Amanda has acted as the lead singer of her alternative rock band, Anomaly, for the past two years.

It all began with a passion. Amanda fell in love with music when she was a young child. Singing and playing music served as an outlet for the

their popularity through a countless number of gigs at places such as the Trocadero Theater, Stone Pony, and Mcguinns Restaurant. They performed alternative hardcore rock music. The band just released its first album “Pull the Lever.”

Like most singers, Amanda experiences her share of stage fright. She said, “I always get jumpy and uneasy before I perform! But I think the



Amanda Lewis and her band Anomaly

avid performer. Amanda proclaimed that music became “something that I could always rely on.” Amanda met her fellow band members at the Princeton School of Rock. After making friends with the members, she joined their band called Anomaly, two years after it was founded. The band consisted of two guitarists, a drummer, and a bassist. Amanda thereafter served as the lead singer and lyricist for a year and a half. Anomaly built up

buildup of anxiety gets me really pumped up for the gig, and I always sing better when I’m nervous. I think I’d feel more worried if I didn’t freak out.” Unfortunately, Anomaly has broken up, but Amanda still plans on continuing her career in music, hoping to one day become a professional singer. Her story serves as a lesson for us all: If we have the courage to believe in ourselves, we can achieve our most desired dreams.

Slammin’ & Jammin’

By **Ryan Frasier**
Staff Correspondent

The Jaguars have been rolling on the court this season. They are off to a great start with a 9-4 record and a top 10 ranking in the Shore Conference. They got off to a hot start in the WOBM Christmas classic, but fell short in the championship game to a red hot Manchester.

The A-South is one of the toughest divisions in the state with teams like Southern and Toms River South dominating other teams. The Jags have yet to face Toms River South and have to face Southern one more time. Those are three huge games for the

team. With victories in these games, the Jaguars will have a good finish in the A-South.

Coach Joseph Fagan still believes there is room for improvement. “We need to do a better job of taking care of the ball, and getting back defensively,” he said. The team has good inside strength with 6’9 senior Eric Carter in the paint. With a tough season ahead the Jaguars are very promising and are still a dangerous team in the Shore.

Senior Eric Carter is committed to continue his career at the University

Aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan

By **Netanya Flores**
Staff Correspondent

More than ten million people were affected and displaced by the monstrous Typhoon Haiyan back in November. Its horrid mark upon the Philippines left behind desperate, poor people holding onto whatever hope they could muster and the strength to rebuild what was left in their lives. Around the world, people of all nations pitched in what they could to help their fellow sister country. Right here in our own town, one of Jackson Memorial’s school nurses, Ms. Marites Delfin, shared her mother and sister’s own experiences of helping their neighbors affected severely by Typhoon Haiyan.

As a fellow native of the Philippines, Ms. Delfin told how her family and the nation were affected, and how

In the United States, it seems that people have all the necessary resources to survive every day, perhaps even more than is needed. “To begin with the Philippines are not as fortunate as us here. In America, people are financially supported and economically stable,” Ms. Delfin stated.

People rationed what they could. For instance, a bottle of water was needed to last a family of four till at least a week because relief groups weren’t able to arrive right away. In the most worst and severe cases, some people would resort to “looting.” Even in areas where you would imagine life wasn’t as impacted from the disaster, people would take the risks

to steal anything in stores. “We’ve seen it with Katrina in Louisiana, how much more in the Philippines where they had nothing from the start,” she said.

It is perfectly normal for a relative overseas to worry about their family that has just been in the center of a natural disaster. Fortunately, Ms. Delfin’s immediate family wasn’t as greatly affected. She shared her grandfather’s miraculous luck even from the atrocious storm.

“In my grandfather’s neighborhood, at least twenty of his neighbors completely lost their houses. He was the only one lucky enough to have all the walls and frame of the house, just not the roof,” she said.

Luckily no one in her family was harmed even from the lack of security. Ms. Delfin’s mother and sister volunteered in

the Philippines in a little town called Bogo, three hours away from her own hometown, happily bringing relief goods and the money raised by the Jackson Memorial faculty and staff. It provided the basic needs of at least fifty-two families!

Unfortunately, natural disasters such as these are



completely unpredictable. We especially don’t know why they happen to the poorest countries.

“You can’t predict Mother Nature, and unfortunately it’s just harder for people like them,” Ms. Delfin answered. Depending on each individual, we are not certain of people’s decisions on whether to stay and rebuild their lives in their destroyed homes, or continue to move on and relocate. The factors of having family left be-



she worried about all of them. The aftermath of the storm was a tremendous challenge to people, - physically, emotionally and economically. Because of the impact and damage the typhoon caused, airports and other forms of transportation were forced to be closed, resulting in the lack of distribution of goods. Businesses had no way of opening up because trucks filled with items were unable to travel on the flooded and debris-filled roads. Even with the collection of provisions from all over the world, there seemed to be trouble of getting the items to the Filipino people.

of Delaware next fall. But the Jaguars still have a very promising future with many rising stars. “We have a good group of underclassman” said Coach Fagan. CJ Blue, Eddie Landi, Jesse Hill, Jimmy Markham, and

Gino Palummo are all juniors who are all starters or get a significant amount of playing time. You definitely have not heard the last of these players.

With the season coming down the home stretch the Jaguars are lighting



hind and businesses still presses people’s minds.

We all struggle with feeling helpless as we watched a part of our world be damaged by a storm that made history. But, with just a little effort on our own, we can make a difference such as Ms. Marites Delfin and her family did.

up the scoreboard. “If we continue to improve, we will be a dangerous team around tournament time,” added Coach Fagan. If they stay hot, hopefully they will bring home a state championship.

Bringing Geometry to Switlik

By Madison Oxx

Staff Correspondent

If you were at Switlik Elementary School on Tuesday, December 17th, you would have seen the looks of excitement on children's faces as they listened attentively as Mrs. Lisa Soltmann's Honors Geometry class read to them.

The students in the class spent weeks writing children's books that focused on geometry and anti-bullying themes. Some worked in groups

and some worked alone, but each book showed an enormous amount of effort and great workmanship. After long hours of working on these book projects – for the benefit of the elementary school students and their own grades - they were finally able to present their stories their geometry class. As the class ate snacks, each group, or solo author, read the books aloud. After this party of book

reading, the students were given their grades and the date was set to go to Switlik Elementary School the next week.

That Tuesday, Mrs. Soltmann's 3rd period class took a bus to Switlik. Each group was assigned to a couple of the elementary classes. In all, nearly the whole fourth and fifth grade of Switlik participated. The elementary school students were very interested in the

geometry stories, listening quietly, and they gave their undivided attention and applauded loudly for each one.

When asked why she does this project with her students and goes to Switlik every year, Mrs. Soltmann responded, "To bridge the gap between elementary school and high school students learning the same subject matter on a different level." Not only was this a gift for

them, it was a gift to the high school students to be able to receive positive feedback from the younger children.

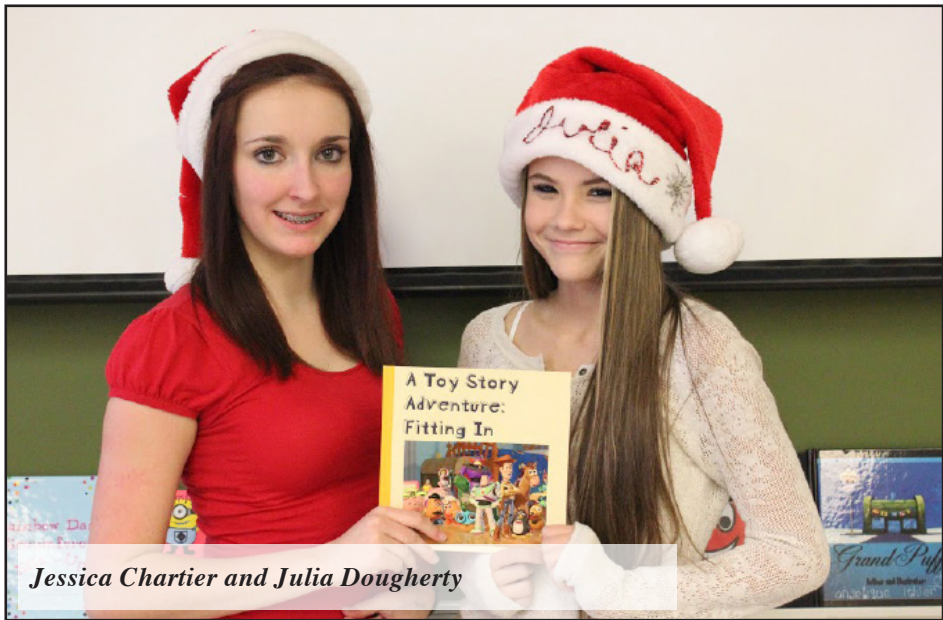
This year, the Tri-Town News, the local paper in Jackson, did a story about Mrs. Soltmann's class. Since then, she has been contacted by math teachers from other districts, asking for information about her children's book projects.



Books by Jessica Chartier, Julia Dougherty, and Angelique Ithier



Joe McGinness and Nicholas Meegan



Jessica Chartier and Julia Dougherty



Joe McGinness, Dylan Miller, Zan Ahmad, Nicholas Meegan, Lisa Soltmann, Julia Dougherty, Jessica Chartier, Madelyn Weathers, Tyra Mc Ewen, and Katelyn Jackson

Traveling After High School

By Caroline Brown

Staff Correspondent

Most kids would only dream of traveling to Europe for four years after high school, but for Brian Baudendistel, a 2013 Jackson Memorial graduate, it's a reality. Now a freshman in college, Brian gets to spend his days attending The American University of Paris, a small school of about 1,000 students, half from America and the rest from all around the world. Brian's advice to anyone who is thinking about going to college abroad - "Do it! It might seem

scary but you'll meet so many friends. I wish everyone could travel for college because it is a life changing experience."

After taking French 1, Brian was sure he would someday travel abroad to visit the much romanticized city of Paris. The more he learned about French and its culture, the more infatuated with France he became. In his junior year, Brian decided a full time school in Paris was for him and applied to The American University.

After just one semester in Paris, Brian is already adjusted to all the differences of each society and culture. He mentioned how rushed New York City can be, everyone on a strict schedule with no time to stop and take a breath, while in Paris, a lunch break can last three hours, most of it spent talking and socializing rather than catching up on emails and missed phone calls. Making new friends, on the other hand, can be a bit trickier when thrown into a new culture.

While most people around Jackson are very friendly, smiling at strangers or hugging a friend goodbye, in Europe it's a whole different story. Brian said rather than being warm and welcoming, people tend to be more reserved making it difficult to tell if they would rather be somewhere else or not.

Despite a complete change in culture and society, Brian has had no disappointments. Everything was even more than he could have imagined and doesn't regret his de-

cision to go overseas for college one bit.

When he completes his four years at the American University of Paris, Brian will continue traveling and studying his major, which should not be very difficult. He's decided to study international business and romance languages with a hope to one day to see the world and interact with different companies.