

PRIDE *in Education*



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President's Message

As the school year quickly comes to an end, it is a pleasure to see that all of the schools in Jackson are keeping their students involved and engaged in both learning activities as well as civic responsibilities. With summer approaching, it is important to remember to continue to work on these skills in order to keep our students up to the challenge of continuing along their path to a successful and meaningful education. Encourage summer reading. Support your child's interests. Promote a feeling of importance for education. All of these things will help to sustain your child's interest in school throughout the summer and assist him or her in sustaining what has been learned as well as encourage confidence in their abilities. The school year has flown by, but the summer is sure to go even faster! Enjoy this time, and we look forward to seeing you in September for another exciting school year!

Carol Mould

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McAuliffe Students Share Their Talents

On May 25, 2016, Sherri Halligan's Sixth Grade Enrichment students had their annual Museum Night at Christa McAuliffe Middle School in the IMC. Museum Night showcases an Archeological culminating activity. Throughout the year, students learn different skills that Archeologists use when they discover ancient ruins. For example, students have to create line drawings of something

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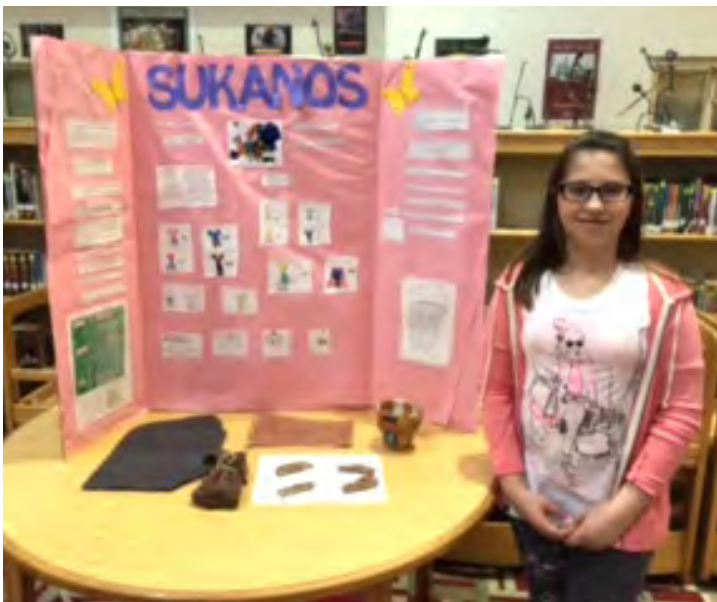
McAuliffe Students Share Their Talents *continued*

from today that would survive for thousands of years and quite possibly be excavated.

Another favorite activity is when students go on a “dig” in the classroom. They have to “excavate” chocolate chips from a cookie using a toothpick!

All of their activities lead up to their final project in which they have to create their own cultures. Students research where their culture is located, the climate, what the people wear, eat, and do for fun, how they protect themselves from invaders, etc. They display their cultures and artifacts on display boards and their parents and families are invited to see all of the cultures. Students act as guides and explain their cultures as their parents move around the IMC.

The students worked very hard and had fun throughout the year and it shows! Congratulations to a job well done! ■





Crawford Rodriguez Students Celebrate Moms

Mrs. Alkalay's Third Grade students at Crawford Rodriguez celebrated Mother's Day "Hollywood Style." The students wrote and read their personalized persuasive essays on why their mom should be awarded "Mom of the Year."

Each writing was typed on Google Docs by each student. After, the students decorated 8x10 frames that held their essay and presented to their mom.

Students and parents dressed to impress, as they walked on the "Red Carpet" All 26 amazing moms attended. After the readings, students and mothers played "Mom" themed games where prizes were awarded.

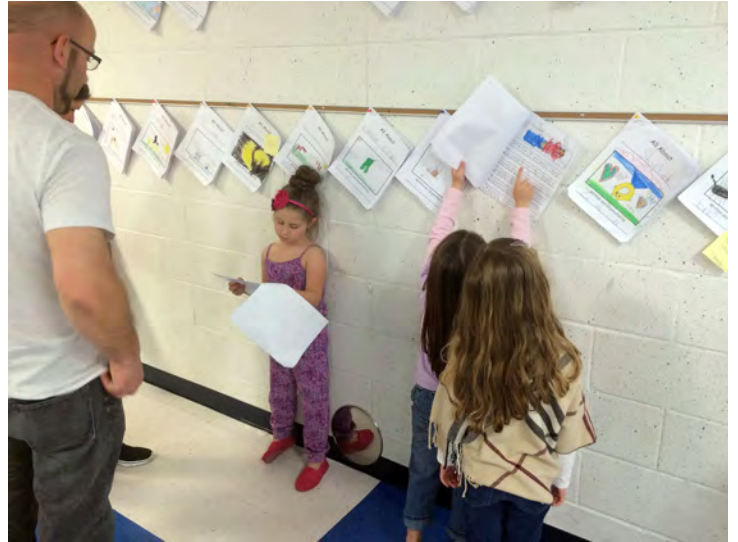
The PRIDE committee of NJEA sponsored many of the refreshments. ■



Science Has Come to Life in Second Grade!

Life Science is so exciting and at Crawford the students in Mrs. Oxx's Second Grade class are experiencing it first-hand. While learning how to write lab reports in Writer's Workshop they took the opportunity to begin their green bean garden. By following the process step by step they are now on their way to a delicious side dish. But that's not the only thing growing in the classroom. On May 2nd, the students were sur-

prised with the arrival of baby caterpillars. Learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and watching it happen is really making it feel like spring. "My favorite part of the Butterfly Project is that we get to see how our own baby caterpillars change from day to day," said Addison. Happy spring to all from Mrs. Oxx's Second Grade class! ■



Young Authors Celebrated at Elms Elementary School

Over 200 of the Elms Elementary School's students, parents, and teachers alike were beaming with pride on April 27th when the school hosted its Second Annual Young Author's Celebration. Students surrounded by their families and teachers toured the building to read, enjoy, and compliment the writing growth that has taken place this year. In addition, the Elms Fifth Grade Ensemble Chorus, directed

by Mrs. Sue Sumutka, provided delightful background music for the event. A big thank you goes out to all the families and teachers of Elms that made time in their busy schedules to participate. Thank you also to the Jackson Rotary for making the event extra special by providing all the young authors with a special pencil and to Jackson Education Association for providing refreshments for the event! ■



Barbara McGill's Preschool Transition class at Rosenauer, enjoyed making ice cream for letter "I" week! ■



McAuliffe School Hosts 3rd Annual Poetry Slam

Christa McAuliffe held its Third Annual Poetry Slam on Tuesday, May 20th! The night was a huge success! With over 30 general session performances and an open microphone session, students were able to express themselves with both original and published works to show their unique style and poetic creativity. Parents, teachers, and community members joined us to support our students in our endeavor to promote literacy. ■



Police Unity Bike Tour: Switlik Students Cheering Our Heroes On!

Organized in May 1997, the Mission of the Police Unity Tour is to raise awareness of Law Enforcement Officers who have died in the line of duty, as well as raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial and Museum. On May 9th, 2016, Switlik students honored their courage and commitment to us! ■

THREE-PEAT!

For the third year in a row, Mrs. Shilan's and Mrs. Macaluso's Fourth Grade Inclusion class have organized a book drive to benefit a children's organization. Letters were sent home in April requesting book donations from the Holman community. For the third year in a row, the community has come through, donating hundreds of books.

The Fourth Graders in Shilan's and Macaluso's class then organize the books by genre and/or grade level and sell the books for \$.50 each. All profits are then donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, NJ Chapter. Last year's class raised over \$1,700. This year, they are focusing more on teaching important Math skills, communication skills, and the simple act of giving back, more so than on the amount that is being raised. Students know that any monies raised are going towards a great cause. ■



Students Participate in 'Immigration Day'

On Friday, May 13th, Mrs. Toddings' and Ms. Hoermann's Fourth Grade class held *Immigration Day*. After studying about immigrants coming to America through Ellis Island, the students did some research of their own ancestors. The students researched someone from their family and found out some interesting information about them. Students then created an immigration ID card, dressed as immigrants, and made a food item from the country they came from. *Immigration Day* was held to show off everything the students learned! Everyone enjoyed great food and truly understood that we all came from different places, but in the end are all the same, it was a great day for all! ■



Caring for Creatures

The First Graders at Elms Elementary certainly love animals! They have been fundraising for The Jersey Shore Animal Shelter. Our kindhearted First Graders were able to raise \$500! The students celebrated with a night of painting tote bags with their parents, friends, and teachers! We're so proud of our students! ■

Virtual Field Trip to Peru

On March 16th, elementary World Language students throughout the district participated in a virtual field trip to Peru. Classes joined expert scientist Matias Caillaux, a fisheries specialist for The Nature Conservancy, to explore the Humboldt Current Ecosystem off the coast of Peru while learning about the area's amazing diversity and productivity. It was very exciting to use the Google Hangout platform where students were able to submit questions in real time to Mr. Caillaux. While Peru is most frequently recognized for its rainforests, mountains, and ancient Inca civilizations, it is also home to one of the most productive ocean ecosystems. During this virtual field trip to the western coast of South America, students learned about the Humboldt Current – a cold water current that pushes nutrients from the deepest ocean toward the surface, forming the basis of a unique and abundant ecosystem where a variety of sea birds, flamingos, and even penguins live! Matias traveled by boat through an arid landscape with ancient carvings to an island that is home to more than 30,000 sea lions at a time! Students discovered what's being done to protect this vulnerable ecosystem – so that both people and animals can continue to thrive. ■



Johnson School held their annual Art Fair on May 12th. Here are some examples of the beautiful displays. ■



Mrs. Alkalay's Third Grade students at Crawford integrated their math (fraction) skills when they baked brownies. Students worked in groups to follow directions to ensure delicious brownies. Yummy Math! ■



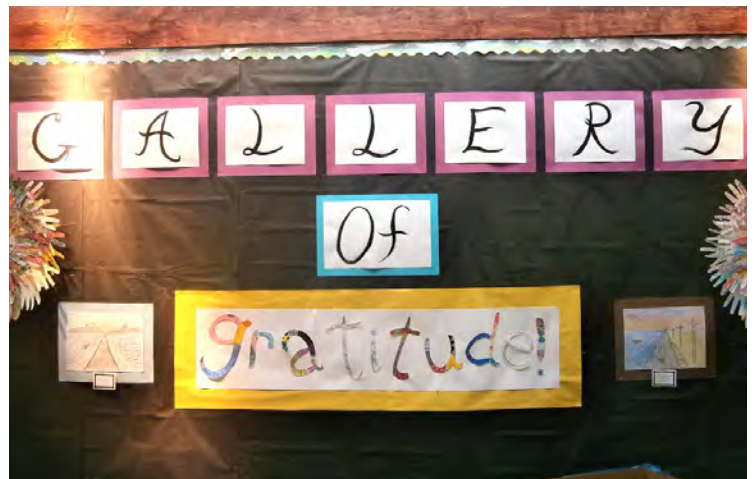
Liberty Students Become Stars with Performances at Walt Disney World Resort over Spring Break

Students from Jackson Liberty High School packed their bags for a magical, fun-filled and educational trip to Walt Disney World Resort where they entertained thousands of guests with their artistic performances at Magic Kingdom Park and Disney Springs in March. Jackson Liberty High School "Liberty Lion" Marching Band performed "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah" at Magic Kingdom on March 29. The school band, along with their director Scott Katona, marched down iconic Main Street, U.S.A., past Cinderella's Castle playing songs and cadences that capture the spirit of Americana.

"It's something special because not everyone gets to perform on Main Street, so I know they were very excited," said Katona. "If you see right now they're all smiles, and even though they're hot, they're sweaty and it was tough, they're smiling, so that's all that counts."

Schools were selected from applicants across the nation that submitted audition tapes reviewed by world-class adjudicators, who evaluate and select schools for the opportunity to participate in a Disney Performing Arts program. Students are taken on stage and behind the scenes, where Disney theme parks become vibrant 'classrooms' as they discover new techniques and pursue their passions, all while making memories that last a lifetime. ■





Holman Hosts a “Gallery of Gratitude”

The hallways of Holman Elementary School were transformed into an art gallery on the evening of April 27 as the Holman School Art Show took place. The “Gallery of Gratitude” combined students’ artwork with the theme of gratitude. Under the direction of art instructor Mrs. Jamie Lee, all Kindergarten through Fifth Grade classes created works of art that celebrated the gratitude students have for different people in their lives – parents, teachers, and other staff members. Students in Kindergarten and First Grade created handprints and hearts dedicated to people they were grateful for – giving their hearts and “high fives” to the people who are important to them. Students in Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth

Grades created portraits and pictures about people they were grateful for. Older students also wrote paragraphs to express why they were grateful to a particular person. To support the “Gallery of Gratitude,” Fourth Grade teacher Mr. Jason McEwan extended the art project by creating gratitude journals with his students. The journals were handed out during the art show. Attendees were encouraged to take the journals home, write about what they are grateful for, and then pass them along to other people to spread gratitude. The theme of the art show has helped the Holman School Community to recognize the people and things in our lives that we are so grateful for! ■



The Book Club that Never Read a Book

We may be dubbed “The Book Club that Never Read a Book” but don’t be confused with that “never” part. *Tiger Paws for a Cause* began as a book club of just 13. However, on Tuesday, May 3rd, as we celebrated our final community service project, we were 38 strong. That is 38 students that gave up their lunch twice a week, all year long to help others in need.

You might remember that this group of Fifth Graders collected 1,615 books for an elementary school in Minnesota, and changed their reading lives forever. The Jackson community rallied and the books were shipped for free by a generous Jackson parent. Parents, siblings, and even the local papers came to help and see what all the fuss was about. It was a big deal.

Then, we were invited to Meadow Lakes, a senior living community. There we interviewed 25 residents and spent a wonderful Tuesday evening with some of the most interesting people we ever met. For the next six days we created a Google Slide Deck about our new friends from Meadow Lakes with questions and

pictures. We returned the following Tuesday and presented this to them and had a good amount of laughs while real friendships were made, we connected generations and learned how much we had in common with our new friends. None of us wanted the night to end.

Our final project included each student researching a “cause” near and dear to their hearts. After each presented their project, we voted and picked a new “cause” – *Who Doesn’t Love Animals?* We collected 13 boxes of towels, toys and treats to donate to a dog orphanage right here in Jackson. Each member of our group had a job to do and did it quite well. We asked our teachers to donate extra pencils and erasers they had and these were sold at lunch for 10 and 25 cents. Our goal was to raise \$20 to be used for pet medicine. We surpassed that goal by more than 15 times. Our community went above and beyond.

As you can see, this book club that NEVER read a book, didn’t have time to read. They were too busy reaching out to others in need. They made a difference this year!

Our final celebration on the 3rd of May, consisted of rice, hand picked from Rice Lake in Minnesota. Our new friends out there also sent us tea and biscotti to enjoy, as a thank you for making their reading lives much better. So as we say goodbye to our final year in Fifth Grade here at Elms Elementary, we all do it with our heads held high, hearts full, and a wonderful legacy left behind.

As the facilitator of this spontaneous group of do-gooders, I want to thank everyone for the support and the freedom to let these fabulous Fifth Graders think and grow in ways beyond the curriculum. The learning they experienced will certainly prepare them for the opportunities that lie ahead in this great big world of ours. ■

The Luckiest Teacher Alive,
Mrs. Donna Donner



“Donut” You Know I’m an Author?

by Mrs. Jere Albertino

On April 27th, Mrs. Albertino’s Kindergarten class had a special Writer’s Workshop publishing party. Students recently published a “How To” book from Studenttreasures Publishing Company.

For over two months, the students diligently worked on creating a class book focusing on telling how to do things, numbering steps, providing a picture for each step, and then labeling all the pictures, and even using comparisons in their writings. Then, they continued by making peer revisions and editing the final writing to be sent in and published into a hard bound book. Some examples of the “how-to” topics were baking brownies, taking care of a dog, becoming a rockstar, and making money.

The published hardcover book is one book combined with all of the individual stories that each student wrote. On the evening of April 27th, families and friends came to listen to each story written by the Kindergarten students. They enjoyed donuts, chocolate milk, and tasty treats. Awards and certificates were given to each student for becoming an author! It was a huge success! ■



The Elms’ students have been working hard learning about plants and flowers. They have enjoyed creating soda bottle terrariums, herb gardens, and planting flowers outside. Elms is even more beautiful, thank to the gardeners! ■



The student’s in Barbara McGill’s Preschool Transition class at Rosenauer created a fun Earth day project. They made robots from recycled items collected by the class! ■

Jackson Education Association

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