

# PRIDE *in Education*



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## President's Message

**O**ur students are participating in so many exciting activities throughout the district. Programs taking place in each and every classroom help to develop our students' minds and hearts. From musical ventures to scientific experimentation to reading across the curriculum, our students are given the opportunity to experience everything a well-rounded education has to offer. Please enjoy reading about some of their latest endeavors in this newest issue of *Pride in Education Magazine*.

*Carol Mould*



## Thanksgiving Celebration at Crawford-Rodriguez

**T**hanksgiving arrived as Mrs. King's and Mrs. Mergner's Fourth Grade Class was studying about *New Jersey – The Colony*. What better way to celebrate than with a meal, homemade butter and some decorative "authentic" class made hats. Thanks to Mrs. Casale, Mrs. Maarberg, Mrs. Amato and Mrs. Wapelhorst, the students were able to share some food and attire from the colonial times.

Boys traced, cut and put together black colonial men's hats. The girls learned to thread a needle and sew colonial women's bonnets. Then the class made homemade sweet cream butter to put on their cornbread muffins. It was a festive and delicious learning experience in Mrs. King's class. ■



## Elms Students Learn About Fire Safety

**D**uring the month of October, Miss Doherty's PSD Intensive class from Elms Elementary School learned about fire safety. Students learned that the community helper, a firefighter, fights fires and helps keep us safe. The class learned who a firefighter is, what their role is in the community, and when they would see a firefighter. The students thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as firemen and learning about the different items they wear to protect them from fires. Each of the students were also able to pretend to be a firefighter by spraying crepe paper fires with a water bottle. All of the students truly enjoyed themselves! ■

## Great Advice from Our Holman School Nurse

by Mrs. Teri Rosenberg, School Nurse at Holman



**A**t Holman Elementary School, the nurse's office is decorated with a food pyramid based on the newest dietary guidelines. A poster sits behind the pyramid to demonstrate proper food choices each day. Any child that asks about it is given a lesson on good food choices and fruits and vegetables should be half of the day's choice. A few children have changed their food choices due to this educational tool!

Also, a reminder: cover those coughs and sneezes with you arm or inside your shirt! Stay home if you have a temperature above 100°, chills, body aches, other flu-like symptoms. Prevent the spread of contagious illnesses – pink eye, strep throat, pneumonia, body rashes, chest colds and coughs, etc. District policy involves treatment from a physician for 24 hours without a fever or other symptoms!

Thank you for your assistance! Mrs. Rosenberg, School Nurse. ■



## Tiger Paws 4 a Cause

**T**he world sure is an unsettled and little bit scary these days. No one can argue that. The news is ripe with events that rattle most of us and make us question the good in humanity. So it is with a warm heart that I share with you the good, right here in Jackson. Fifth Graders dedicated to helping another community just like them. Except this community in Minnesota is quite “poor” where our community is exceptionally “wealthy” – in books.

On most Tuesdays and Thursdays, I have a “Lunch & Learn” with anywhere from 15 to 26 students. When they heard about this community in Minnesota, they didn’t say “aw, that’s too bad”. Nope! Not my lunch bunch. Within a matter of minutes they were coming up with a plan to get books to this community in Minnesota. Chromebooks were opening, research about Pine Point School in Minnesota was underway. Students care.

Our first solution was to clean out our own book shelves and send a box or two, and we were pretty psyched about that outcome. Who knows how things spiraled out of control, maybe when they put their heads together the outcome became way more colossal and meaningful, and fun. But within a day or two, flyers were created, a name for our “Lunch & Learn” evolved and “Tiger Paws for a Cause” was born.

Soon, partners were spreading the word in all the classrooms at Elms. Everyday for a week volunteers informed the kids at lunch about this book drive and before you know it our two boxes of books grew by leaps and bounds, or mountains. The Elm’s Community is good.

We are trying to catalogue the books and, to date, we have between 700 and 1,000 books. Actually that’s an underestimate, we haven’t finished counting yet.

Shipping was a huge issue. Costly, yes. Far, yes. Impossible, NO! One day at our “Lunch & Learn” one of our volunteers, Abby Coffman, handed me a business card and said, “my dad said call him”. I glanced at the card and noticed that her dad’s name was on a business card for a shipping company. My heart skipped a few beats. However, you know kids, they happily volunteer their parents to do the most outrageous things. I was apprehensive to believe. I forgot, people are good.

During conferences, I was speaking with Mrs. Ulrey, another parent helping us with this book drive, about this business card that was burning a hole in my pocket. I asked her if she would call Mr. Coffman, reason being, it would be easier to say no to her than to me. She agreed and reached out to him. Abby was right, her dad did agree to ship all of the books to Minnesota. To make things even sweeter, he got someone to donate the boxes. Parents are good.

So, on December 4th, after school, “Tiger Paws for a Cause” will be meeting for a packing party. With pizza, parents and “paws” we will pack and label all of the boxes to be shipped. Then, with pride we will watch and wave as our boxes drive away and eagerly await the news of their arrival some 1,400 miles away.





Elms Elementary School Girl Scouts collected "leftover" Halloween candy for our servicemen and women. Some kindergarten and first grade students helping with the effort.



Some students from Ms. Holloway's first grade class participate in the Elms Kids Care and show respect wall.

So the point here is, **look for the good in people harder than you look for the bad.** It is everywhere. It is especially right here in Jackson, New Jersey. Kids helping kids!

Stay tuned, because this group is already thinking of the next thing they can do to make the world a little bit brighter. When they leave Elms in June, the reputation that they leave behind will be one they can hold their heads up high for. A legacy of sorts.

Our next community service project has not been decided yet. Our "Tiger Paws" want to try to help out a little closer to home. If you have an idea or you want to know about our next project, please reach out to [dadonner@jacksonsd.org](mailto:dadonner@jacksonsd.org). Donna Donner, and her kids, would love to hear from you.

A special thank you to Mr. Bryan, Mr. Paradise, Mrs. Cooney, Mr. Coffman and Mrs. Ulrey and especially my kids, for all your behind-the-scenes help. Thank you to everyone who donated books to our cause. We feel the love! The kids thrive because of the community we have created for them this year. Our village is good! ■

## The Great, Big, Awesome, "WONDER"-FULL Project

by Mr. Jason McEwan, 4th Grade Teacher at Holman

This year in Room 113 at Holman School, Mr. McEwan's fourth grade class shared the book *Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio. This is the story of a boy named August Pullman, a truly unique child who is attending school for the first time as a fifth grader. I will not give any more of this story away, but my students and I cannot recommend this book to each one of you enough. If you have a chance we highly suggest reading this book and the companion piece, *Auggie & Me*. These books are written from the perspective of different characters that are involved in the central story and are a wonderful resource to teach perspective.

Apart from the teaching aspects of these books, students absolutely have fallen in love with this story. They would cheer each day that I would pick up the book, and get downright mad when I would end my daily reading of it. It was wonderful to see students so engaged and enchanted with literature. Once we finished the story, the students were sad that it had to end.

Good literature can capture a child's mind, imagination, and heart. A lifelong love of reading is something that should be developed early, and that is exactly what this book has done in Room 113 at Holman Elementary School.

Since the students were so upset about the story ending, we have decided to keep the "Wonder" going and growing in our classroom. The students are currently participating in a creative project where they will choose how they would like to demonstrate their understanding of the story.

Some of the ideas that students have come up with are making movie trailers for *Wonder*, creating a sculpture of one of the characters, writing a play based on the book, creating a poster, diorama, or yearbook based on the book or finally writing a chapter from the point of view of a character that they would like to hear from.

As a teacher I am so excited to see the students demonstrate their knowledge of a wonderful book, but I am even more excited to see their students demonstrate this in a creative way. On December 22, at our Winter Celebration, we will be presenting these projects to the parents. We hope to keep the "Wonder" growing throughout our community! ■



## 16th Annual McAuliffe Run for Vets is a Huge Success!

A heartfelt thank you for your continued support with the "Honor Our Veterans Breakfast" here at McAuliffe. Without the JEA we could not put on the breakfast/luncheon. The JEA is our backbone in carrying out this successful event! ■







## Honors Biology Students Study in the Pine Barrens

**H**onors Laboratory Biology and Resource Science together shared a field trip to Wells Mills County Park, Waretown, New Jersey. The 73° day was a real treat for the students that started with a double rainbow viewed from the parking lot in the morning. The students, along with their teachers, Ms. Tracz, Ms. Hopko, and Mr. Chesley listened to a park naturalist discuss the history of the ecologically rich area. Ms. Tracz, Ms. Hopko and Mr. Chesley then led the students on a nature walk through a Cedar Swamp to an upland area. The picture is one of our rare finds, a spatulate leaved sundew, which we searched for in the sphagnum moss bog. Sundews are native carnivorous plants found exclusively in the Pine Barrens. ■

## Goetz Students Create Anti-Bullying PSAs for Elementary Students

**M**any wonderful Anti-Bullying activities are taking place in Mrs. Potter's computer classes at Goetz Middle School. Her students are busy creating productions to be presented at Johnson Elementary School in grades Kindergarten - First Grade.

The productions include:

**Mickey and Friends – Bullying and Friendship** – tells of a time when Mickey, Minnie and Goofy are all being bullied by Pete and they don't know why. Kids are taken on a journey to save their friendship.

**Superman Saves the Day** – Students around the school are being bullied. Superman flies into different situations and teaches lessons with words of wisdom.

**Fantastic Friends** – A bully (Evil Bully Bizarro) is being mean to the students at Goetz School. The Fantastic Friends (Kind Chaos, Friendly Flash, Nice Nitro) save the day with kind and friendly advice.

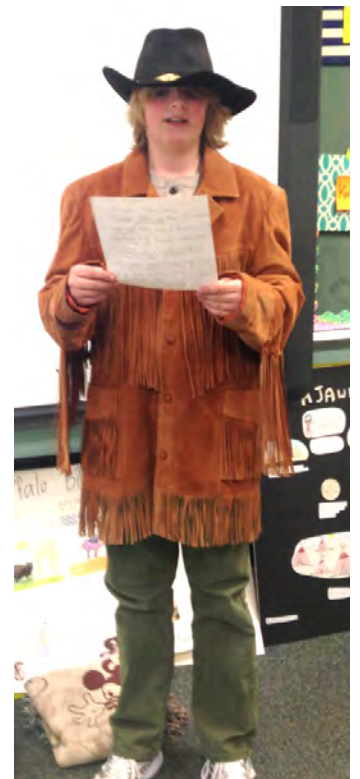
**A Classroom Close-Up Production** is also in the works by the Tech Savvy Teens. Similar to the classic show, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, students are showing the pros and cons of the use of technology in schools.

Stay tuned for more exciting premiers from these talented students. ■



## Johnson Students 'Go West'

**T**he fifth grade classes at Howard C. Johnson have "Gone West"! Students explored pioneer living and the journey west through cross curricular activities. Activities includes making yarn dolls in Art. In Science, students created animals of the west mobiles. Students calculated the weight of supplies for wagon travel. Classes created pioneer legends and presented projects as well as researching important key figures and presenting reports. Fifth graders, enjoyed a tasting of various pioneer foods such as, bacon, coffee cake, and beans. Students anticipate using all this knowledge of the Western Expansion to include in their Informational Research Writings! ■







## Summer Reading Rocks at Holman

**T**he summer of 2015 was full of great books for the students of Holman Elementary School! Last June, after an assembly program presented by staff members of the Jackson Branch of the Ocean County Library, Holman students were encouraged to read at least five books over the summer. After reading five books, kids could go to the Jackson Library and receive a certificate that said they were Reading Superheroes!

In September, Holman students were encouraged to bring their reading certificates from the Jackson Public Library to school for a chance to be entered into a raffle for one of three prize baskets, provided by H.O.P.E., our parent-teacher organization. The prize baskets included books, Dr. Seuss-themed cups, a stuffed animal of a famous book character, and gift cards to Target. Also, in addition to being entered into the raffle, every student who brought in their reading certificate received bookmarks and coupons to local restaurants. We had more than 120 Holman students participate in this program! Keep on reading! ■

## Goetz Students Inducted into Art Honor Society

**O**n Thursday, November 19th, the Goetz Middle School inducted its new National Junior Art Honor Society members for the 2015-16 school year. The evening went beautifully as the members were led in by their advisors Mrs. Helene Capicotto and Mrs. Holly Callahan as well as our guest speaker from the Lion's Club, Mr. Townsend.

The new executive board is led by President Natalie Knauf, Vice President Alexandra Danski, Secretary Sophia Olszewski, and Historians Lyndsi Beal and Abigail Rauch. Nominated students had to complete a poster on the theme of "Share Peace", a writing sample, and meet academic requirements. Selected students were then invited to the induction ceremony. Students will work on artistic community related projects. The evening ended with congratulations, conversations, pictures, and light refreshments. ■



## Getting in the Spirit

**G**oetz student's always have fun participating in school spirit days, but on this particular spirit day, we were all mixed up! Friday, November 20th, was Role Reversal Day at Goetz. Students dressed as their favorite teachers, while teachers dressed like the students.

In Ms. Callahan's eighth grade literacy class, role reversal was taken a step further. The students actually became the teachers, each teaching their own "How To" lesson. Lessons ranged from how to make an ice cream sundae to how to tie a tie to how to do a back flip on a bike. In the week prior, students wrote "How To" essays, created a lesson plan and prepared their presentations. On the day of, students taught their lessons, bringing in any needed materials or a video to demonstrate the skill. It was a unique experience enjoyed by all. ■



## Ghouly Goetz Tour of the Heart Trick or Treat

**O**nce again, Goetz science teacher, Mr. Pietraszek, tricked his students into learning on Halloween! Students were given an up close and very real tour of the heart and lungs. Mr. P. wouldn't say what animal the organs came from, but, rest assured it was not a small one! ■

## McAuliffe National Junior Art Honor Society Welcomes 2105-2016 Inductees

**M**embership in the National Junior Art Honor Society is one of the highest honors that can be awarded at McAuliffe. The National Art Honor Society, sponsored by the National Art Education Association, is a prestigious organization represented throughout the United States and thirteen foreign countries with over 2,100 chapters and 49,000 participating students. The organization strives to inspire and recognize students who have shown an outstanding ability and interest in art and to bring art education to the attention of the school and community.

The National Junior Art Honor Society at McAuliffe, advised by art teacher Amy North, is designed specifically for middle school students and focuses on the importance of good grades and the development of outstanding citizenship through community service.

The following eighth grade students were inducted into the National Junior Art Honor Society on November 11th: Logan Brunner, Madison Brown, Allie Coughlin, Nichole Data, Maggie Dunham, Hunter Gould, Maggie Hendley, Allen Hong, Karolina Jaruseviciute, Morgan Koopman, Paige Previte, Erika Russell, Lisette Soto, Billy Worrall and Roberta Zimnickaite.

Each student was recognized with accolades during a candle lighting ceremony where students received membership certificates and a red carnation. The ceremony was followed by a reception with refreshments for the students, friends and family.

Our new NJAHS members have been busy with community service activities in the short month since the induction. They have already face painted at our Run For Vets fundraiser, assisted the Character Education Committee; painted the lower level faculty room, and created holiday cards to send to our troops overseas! Congratulations to all the new members of National Junior Art Honor Society! ■

## Crawford Students Honor Veterans Day

**I**n honor of Veterans Day on November 11th Mrs. King and Mrs. Avila's literacy classes were welcomed by Corporal Kyle Mergner – US Marine Corps Veteran. After viewing a video on Veteran's Day, listening to the *Marine Corps Hymn*, and reading leveled passages about Veterans Day, the students had the opportunity to speak with a veteran.

Kyle is a graduate of Jackson Memorial High School and entered the Marine Corps in October 2002. He served in an infantry unit out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina until January 2007. He served in Cuba, Jbouti, and Iraq during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Kyle brought uniforms, medals, ribbons dog tags, and photographs to show the students. He also talked about his grandfather – Fred Mergner who was an Army Veteran of World War II. Kyle allowed the students to try on his grandfather's Army uniform jacket and hat. The students saw dog tags, ribbons and medals from WWII as well.

The students asked great questions and were impressed and able to apply what they learned to the articles they were reading in class. Much discussion and questioning occurred following the visit. The students then made thank you cards for their new veteran. ■

## Carl W. Goetz Honors Chorus Performs at 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony

**O**n Friday, September 11, 2015, Eighth Grade members of the Goetz Honors Choir, under the direction of Marge Eisen-schmied, performed at the annual "Remembering 9-11-01" Patriot Day Service at Westlake Golf and Country Club in Jackson. The students sang the *Star Spangled Banner* for the opening ceremony and *Amazing Grace* later in the program. The choir members were honored to be a part of the ceremony, and were very well received by members of the audience. ■



## A Sweet Treat

**T**he Goetz Builders Club started the year off with a sweet treat – cookies!! Builders Club members stayed after school to bake cookies as a fundraiser for the Walk for Wishes, to benefit the Make-A-Wish foundation. Students happily gobbled them up during the cookie sale.



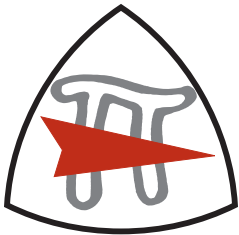
With the proceeds from the sale, and individual fundraising, the Builders Club raised over \$1,000 for Walk for Wishes. Members and their families attended the Walk for Wishes, held at the Wishing Castle in Monroe, on October 18th. ■



## Jackson Education Association

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Lisa Crate, *Vice President*  
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Stephanie Healy, *Corresponding Secretary*  
Elaine Holleran, *Recording Secretary*  
Phone: (732) 367-4954



### Serving Our Community

**G**oetz Builders Club members are proud to help their community. On October 24th, members and their families spent the morning cleaning the beach in Point Pleasant as a part of the biannual Beach Sweeps.

During the month of November, the Builders Club ran a school-wide food drive. Homerooms competed to see who could bring in the most items. The top homeroom collected 250 items! Thanks to everyone who donated, Goetz donated 1,650 items to the Jackson Food Pantry. ■



### McAuliffe Parent/Student Book Club Enjoys a Successful Evening

**T**he McAuliffe Literacy Leadership Team would like to thank everyone involved in supporting the McAuliffe Parent/Student Book Club. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Jackson Education Association for sponsoring all of the refreshments, as well as a thank you to all the teachers who attended and promoted student/parent reading. ■