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Crawford Community Outreach Sponsors Fall Family Event

Students, families and staff members at Crawford-Rodriguez gathered on October 23rd to enjoy fall art activities and a meal. The event was hosted by the school's Community Outreach Committee and sponsored by the Jackson Education Association (JEA) PRIDE Committee.

This is the third year that families from the school community have participated in these activities which are designed to encourage stronger home/school connections. Crawford teachers and administrators were volunteers at the event and enjoyed sharing a meal and art projects with families attending the program.

Previous programs hosted by the Community Outreach Committee have included math games, a Bingo Night, and improvisational acting activities with the Jackson Memorial High School Drama Club.

We are looking forward to upcoming programs in the winter and spring. Thank you to the JEA Pride Committee for supporting these important community connections. ■



Holman Coin Challenge Raises Money for New Books

During the first week of October, Holman Elementary School held a coin challenge contest. This school-wide event had students at each grade level competing to donate the most coins. Each day of the contest, the "Bobcat Bandit," also known as Mr. Grayce, our Holman music teacher—would urge the students during morning announcements to bring in and donate their coins. It was a close race, with the entire third grade class just barely beating out the other grades by donating the most coins. The money raised was used to purchase books for the classrooms. By raising the most money, the third graders won the prize of capturing the elusive, mysterious Bobcat Bandit.

On Friday, October 20, the entire third grade class met in the Holman gymnasium to try to catch Mr. Grayce. They chased him all around, and although he was fast, he was caught again and again. After being captured, the third graders taped Mr. Grayce to a wall in the gym with duct tape. Every student had a chance to place tape on the wall. Poor Mr. Grayce was completely covered in tape, and completely attached to the gym wall! Thanks for being such a good sport, Mr. Grayce! The Holman third grade students had a blast! ■



Johnson School Aquaponics Lab

When students visit the H.C. Johnson Library, they are entering a classroom that truly meets the needs of 21st-century learners. It is a place in which students feel welcome to create, explore, research, and collaborate with one another. Whether it be through the use of traditional resources, or through technology, all students have equal access to information and the skills necessary to locate it.

As students become prepared to be future ready, addressing core competencies such as digital literacy, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills becomes imperative. Lessons for students in grades K-5 seek to address those needs through the integration of technology and through project-based learning opportunities.

The brand new Aquaponics Lab is a most welcomed addition to the library program. This lab gives Johnson students a unique opportunity to engage in project-based learning in a real-life setting. It also allows both the librarian and classroom teacher to collaborate on lessons that ultimately strengthen the partnership between the library and the classroom.

Students in grades three through five were introduced to aquaponics after completing initial coursework designed to help them locate information in the library. Once completed, students discussed the history of aquaculture, examined the differences between aquaponic and hydroponic farming, and investigated how aquaponic gardening may be the key to a more sustainable future.

Through hands-on, project-based learning opportunities students have taken ownership of the aquaponic garden and have learned more about environmental stewardship. Future lessons will focus on the science behind aquaponics and as well as

strengthening community relationships when the students and staff begin to work with the Jackson Food Pantry.

Enthusiasm for this project can only be eclipsed by the real impact it has on the school community as a whole. This is the beginning of a new chapter for the library program, library pun intended, and everyone can't wait to see where the future takes Johnson School! ■

McAuliffe National Junior Art Honor Society Welcomes 2017-2018 Inductees

Membership 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 2nd: Anastasia



Artymenko, India Lee Borlongan, Alyssa Cameron, Dani Casper, Ella Centofanti, Ava Corsaro, Angelique Dinnall, Josiah Farley, Diana Ferullo, Ethan Gawron, Kristina Gunusen, Chris Johnson, Lidiya Kelyman, Mina Kovach, Charlotte Orton, Mit Patel, Jalyn Postadan, Anna Sergunina, Ashley Waldron, and Shayna Yerike.

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 donated by the Jackson Education Association for the students, friends and family.

Our new NJAHS members have been busy with community service activities in the short time since the induction. They have already face painted at the 6th grade Halloween Dance and our Run for Vets fundraiser, and will be finishing a mural for the Character Education Committee and another for the lower level faculty room in November! Congratulations to all the new members of National Junior Art Honor Society! ■



Switlik's Walk to Remember Honors Veterans

On September 20, 2017, Switlik School hosted their annual "Walk to Remember" to honor all active and local veterans within the community.

Former Jackson School District Principal Mr. Barry Rosenzweig joined us in educating the students about the sacrifices that military servicemen have made for the safety of the United States – and even joined everyone for a "Memorial Walk" around the school to honor all who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

It was a very memorable event for everyone at Switlik. The school community and students continue to appreciate and give thanks to all those who have served, especially all active service men and women who continue to do so today! ■



Third Grade Students Host Presidential Election

This past Election Day students in Mr. Maher and Mrs. Picozzi's third grade class elected a new Class President and Vice-President. Students took part in a month-long campaign where they had to come up with platform ideas, design and create campaign slogans and advertising material, and even took part in a debate!

The students had a difficult choice, but in the end they chose Joshua Wishnick and Ryan Leitrim to be their next Class President and Vice-President. Congrats to Josh, Ryan, and all of the students that took part in this amazing experience. They will now lead our classroom government along with their cabinet members, Secretary of State Aliza Rose, Secretary of the Treasury Jayden Melville, and Assistant Treasury Secretary Kyle Petry.

Every week, students propose bills to be discussed and voted on. Bills are chosen by Speaker of the House Michael Marchisotto. When the Classroom Congress approves the bill it must then be signed by the President or vetoed. Our students really enjoy learning about how the government works and have become very passionate about created ideas that will make our classroom a better place.

As of November 17th, Class President Joshua Wishnick and Vice President Ryan Leitrim were sworn in during our Inauguration Day activities. During these activities all of our former Class Presidents and Vice Presidents were invited back to take part in the festivities.

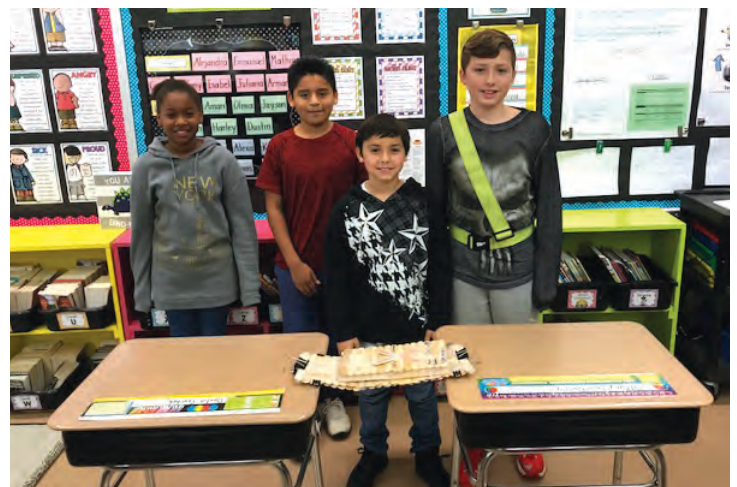
The following students took part in the event: Matthew Bland (Class President - 2008/09, currently a junior at Liberty High School), Christopher Blodgett (Class President - 2009/10, currently a sophomore at Liberty High School), Vincent Casale and Casey Braun (Class President and Vice President - 2010/11, currently Freshmen at Liberty High School), Tyler Rosofsky and Kaitlyn Rayside (Class President and Vice President - 2011/12, currently 8th graders at McAuliffe Middle School), Matthew Raimondi and Michael McCloud (Class President and Vice President - 2012/13, Matt is a 7th grader at McAuliffe, and Michael is now living in Switzerland – he participated in the event via FaceTime), Rachel Wishnick and Veronica Cain (Class President and Vice President - 2013/14, currently 7th graders at McAuliffe Middle School), Gianna Rudow and Jonathan Marchisotto (Class President



and Vice President - 2014/15, currently 6th graders at McAuliffe Middle School), Ryan Eitel and Tegan Maarberg (Class President and Vice President 2015/16, currently 5th graders), Ava Combs and Maggie Braun (Class President and Vice President 2016/17, currently 4th graders), and our current Class President and Vice President, Joshua Wishnick and Ryan Leirim. ■

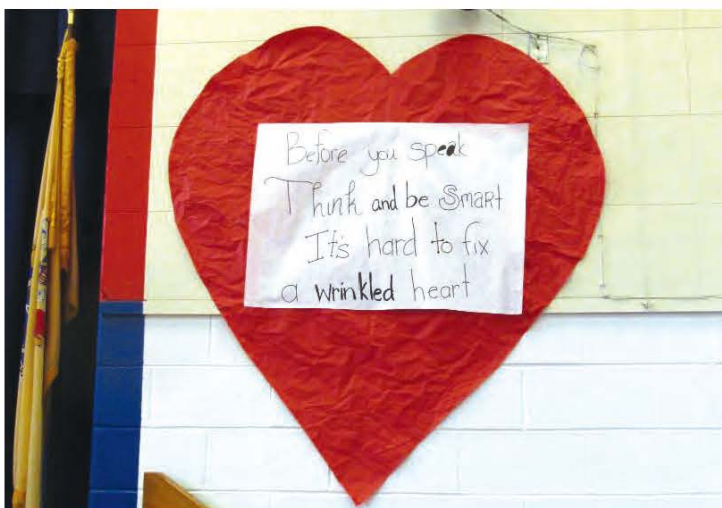


Kindergarten had a “reading parade” all through the **Elms** school last month chanting “we are readers!” Students have quickly developed a love of reading through the readers and writers workshop programs.



Holman School Students' Science Unit Builds Success!

The fifth grade students in Mrs. Majors' class at Holman Elementary School have been excited about their first Science Unit of the new school year. During this time, the students learned about the different states of matter, physical and chemical changes, and different types of bridges. Students were challenged with the task of creating a bridge that could span 30 cm and support 5 pounds for 10 seconds using popsicle sticks, toothpicks, straws, and binder clips. Working collaboratively in small groups, students created scientific group names and began working through the Design Process in order to accomplish the task. Every student in the class was eager to complete the challenge, and looked forward to the Science period of each school day. After the first trial, all four groups successfully created a bridge that was able to support the weight for the given time limit. During the Redesign phase, students made adjustments and changes to their bridges in order to support additional weight without collapsing. Overall, the unit was extremely successful and every student thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on learning and reflecting on the process in their Science Journals. ■



Teachers at the **HC Johnson School** demonstrated how “Being Different is Beautiful”. A school-wide assembly was held where students were actively engaged in discussions on diversity. Teachers wanted to make all students aware of differences between their peers.

McAuliffe's 18th Annual Run for Vets Program is a True Success!

McAuliffe Middle School students, teachers, faculty, parents and veterans all came together in November to celebrate the 18th Annual Run for Vets Program. Held each year, it is a time for everyone to come together within the community to honor veterans and help raise money for causes that support them in their everyday lives. Students were treated throughout the day with visits and presentations given by current military personnel as well as veterans who live in the area. The one mile runs and relays were held after school where participation this year was exceptionally high. A good time was had by all!

Thanks so much to the Jackson Education Association and the NJEA Pride Organization for making this annual community event at McAuliffe Middle School such a success. Other partners for the event include IBEW Local 400, Christa McAuliffe School and Home Association, Oceanfirst Bank and the Kiwanis Club of Jackson. It was a fun filled and educational day for both our students and veterans alike. The McAuliffe School looks forward to hosting this important event again next year. ■



Switlik Celebrates “Week of Respect”

On October 6, 2017, during New Jersey’s mandated observance, Week of Respect, the Switlik PTN sponsored an assembly for the students of Switlik Elementary. Dr. Paul Wichansky presented a passionate and uplifting discussion about his triumphs over cerebral palsy and hearing loss. Dr. Paul’s message helped to instill in the students that with a dream, motivation and perseverance they can soar toward success. Since age 10, Dr. Paul has hosted an estimated 7,500 presentations on the topics of diversity and disability awareness, character education, anti-bullying, and empowering youth. His uplifting assemblies encourage students to ensure their names become symbols for success as they learn to embrace the ideals of confidence and leadership that help make their lives a success story. ■





Students Are Grateful for Each Other at Holman School

At Holman Elementary School, students have been spending time thinking about what they are thankful for. During November, Mrs. Milon's and Mrs. McEneaney's fifth grade students met with Mrs. Albertino's kindergarten students to work on an "I Am Thankful" project. The fifth graders paired up with the Kindergartners to help the younger students

come up with ideas about what they are grateful for, and the big kids helped the little kids with writing and spelling. Some of the things the kindergarten students wrote about were their families, their friends, and their wonderful classroom. The fifth graders enjoyed working with the kindergarten students, and everyone is looking forward to collaborating again in the future. ■

Elms Elementary School Celebrates Farm to School Week

Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week is celebrated in New Jersey the last week of September. It is a program that was signed into legislation in 2011 by Governor Christie. Elms celebrated this year by hosting a variety of activities throughout the week of September 25 - 29, promoting locally grown fruits and vegetables, nutritional and agricultural education.

The students in grades preschool through five participated in the 2017 Jersey Tastes kick off, a program developed by the NJ Department of Agriculture to encourage schools to offer locally grown, seasonal fruits and vegetables to their students. The Elms Learning Garden Committee and the PTN teamed up with I & G Farms in Jackson to host a tomato taste testing table in the cafeteria during student lunches. Students were offered a variety of tomatoes from I & G Farms and from their

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Farm to School Week *continued*

school garden to taste test. They read informational facts about tomatoes and participated in a “Guess How Many in the Jar” contest. The Elms preschoolers helped to harvest the tomatoes for the taste test from the school garden. They also participated in color sorting activities and sensory activities to learn more about tomatoes.

The entire week was a great opportunity for the students of Elms Elementary to learn the importance of supporting local farms, agriculture and healthy food options. ■



Farm to School Week *continued*



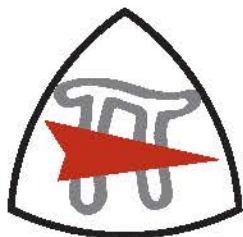
3rd Grade Stem Challenge at Switlik School

Students in Mrs. Gilmore and Ms. Hoermann's 3rd grade class completed a Candy Corn STEM challenge on Halloween. Students were put into groups and they were challenged to build the tallest freestanding structure using only candy corn and toothpicks. Students did a great job brainstorming ideas and testing to see if they would work! Everyone had a great time! ■

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2018
NEW YEAR

