

PRIDE *in Education*



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Elms' Students Get to Walk in Someone Else's Shoes During Diversity Day!

Recently, students in grades K-2 participated in Diversity Day, spearheaded and organized by Mrs. Nicole D'Ambrosio, an outstanding teacher in one of the Multiply Disabled classrooms. Diversity Day is a day designed to promote awareness, collaboration and sensitivity to the general education students, while providing them with the opportunity to learn about how students with special needs experience everyday activities.

Students visited different stations that allowed them to feel and see how someone with Autism, communication, or physical impairments learn. Through this process, they were better able to understand how it would feel to have those challenges. Students were eager to learn about the challenges these special friends face each day. Everyone walked away with a better sense of what it is like to "walk in someone else's shoes." ■



Switlik Students Thrive During Obstacle Course Challenge!

On Wednesday, April 17, Switlik students were given the chance to showcase their athletic skills as they completed a fun and interactive obstacle course, coordinated by Switlik Physical Education Teacher Mr. Yaniv Hamdi and operated by the rest of the special area staff. Students enjoyed being timed on their progress as each class and grade level competed with one another as they operated a scooter, jumped hurdles, zig zagged around obstacles, and even crawled under a large parachute before they had to walk the long balance beam on their way to the finish line! It was great for all of the students to engage with the course and each other as well. Everyone worked together to ensure that all students were able to successfully complete the challenges, have fun and exercise at the same time! This event is always enjoyable for both the special area teachers and students and is something that teachers and staff hope to continue annually. ■

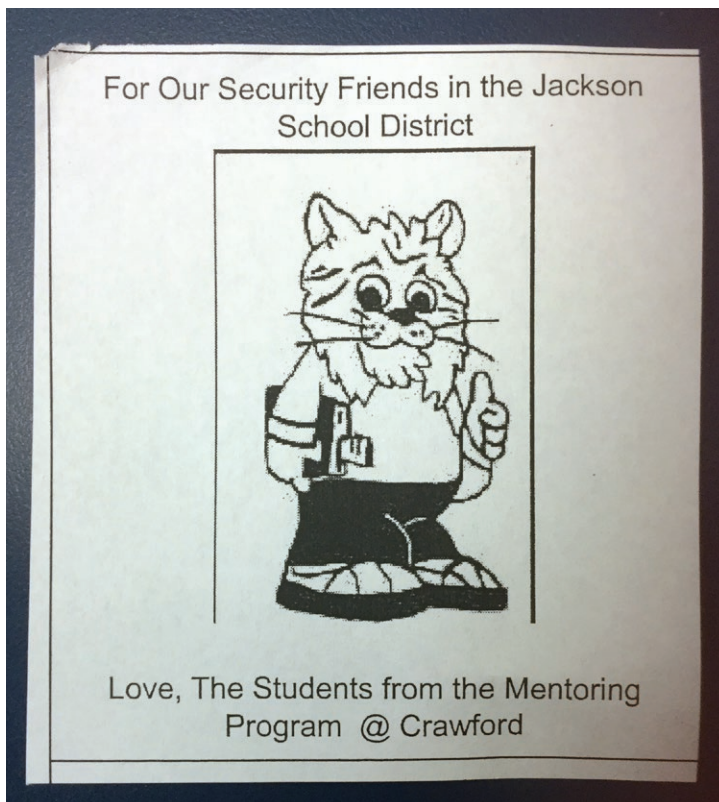


Kindergarten is “A Latte” Fun

On May 15th, Mrs. Albertino's Kindergarten class at Holman Elementary School held a special “Starbooks Sip and See” evening event. When students returned from Winter Break in January, they were asked to think about “What makes YOU so special and important?” They read the book *The Important Book* by Margaret Wise Brown. After reading and discussing the book, each student decided on what makes them important. This served as a launch for creating a class “Important Book” that was

later published by the company StudentTreasures. The students celebrated the success of their book as they transformed the classroom into a “Starbooks” Coffee Shop. Inviting family and friends to the special evening event, each student read their part of the story to the attendees, and then was able to share other previously written pieces with their loved ones. The Sip and See Cafe was a wonderful way to celebrate what makes the students so important and to share in their writing growth! ■



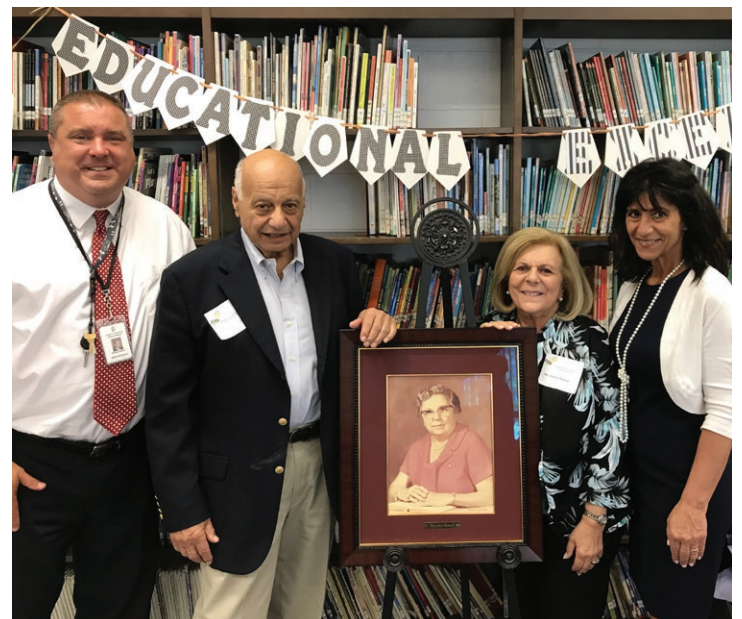


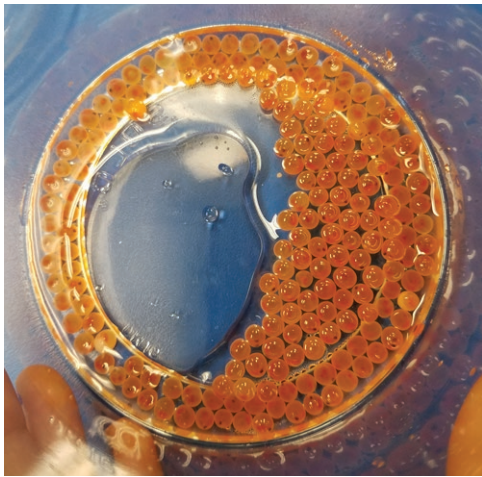
Crawford Mentoring Program Thanks School Security

The mentoring program at Crawford Rodriguez utilizes school staff to mentor a student in grade K-6. This year, one of the projects that they worked on was creating a survival kit for the Jackson Security Guards in the district. Each student worked with their mentor to gather the materials and create the bag to be delivered. Students had a goal of wanting to not only help the security guards in the district, but also to show them how much they love and appreciate all they do for the students in the district. ■

Holman School Turns 50!!

Holman Elementary School is celebrating 50 years of educational excellence this spring! Opening as the Robin Estates Elementary School in April 1969, the building was later renamed the Lucy Holman Elementary School in 1971. Lucy Holman was a teacher and principal in Jackson for many years. In celebration of the school's 50th Anniversary, the Holman School Community has been participating in a wide variety of activities. The week before Spring Break, the staff and students dressed up in the fashions of different decades-- the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Each hallway of the school was decorated in the styles of different decades as well. May 8th was a full day of celebration at the school with a special Afternoon Tea to welcome back past staff members. 40 former teachers and principals attended this event which made for a lovely reunion. During the evening of May 8th, Holman School held their annual talent show at Liberty High School. This extravaganza had more than 20 performances by students, entire classes, and staff members as everyone traveled through time from the 1960s to the present day. Congratulations to Holman School for a magnificent 50 years! ■





Elms Students Experience Hands-On Learning

This year, students in Mrs. Konopack and Ms. Hulley's 5th grade class at Elms Elementary School participated in the Trout In the Classroom project. The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited have partnered up to offer this program to students in the state, with the goal of learning about cold water conservation with an emphasis on hands-on learning. The children received the rainbow trout as

eggs from the Pequest Fish Hatchery and maintained a healthy environment in a 52 degree tank for the trout to grow. Cross-curricular opportunities included learning about science (local ecology, biology), making observations and recording data, and creative writing endeavors. The trout were released this May into a tributary of the Toms River with the help of Ranger Rick Dutko of the Forest Resource Education Center in Jackson. ■





Switlik Imagineers Construct and Program Lego Machines!

During the past few months, Switlik students have really created some fantastic things out of Legos during their computer classes. To better promote engineering and coding, students have used the Lego We Do kits to



create windmills, satellites, and race cars, all of which were constructed by the students as they worked in groups to study blueprints and problem solve in building their final creations. Once their designs were built, students were able to use the bluetooth connection in the iPad to connect their projects to the Lego We Do app. Once connected, students were then able to code a program and see their objects come to life based

upon the commands that they chose. It was really cool to see the kids create a dimensional, hand held object and then use the software applications to really make it come to life. This activity was the perfect combination of STEM engineering and computer coding, both of which are skills that they can expand upon as they move into the upper grade levels. ■

We Wanna Rock!



After a successful social media campaign, the one and only Dee Snider of Twisted Sister fame made a video appearance at Holman Elementary School's talent show! Mr. Snider congratulated Holman Elementary on 50 years of education and serving the community. He also sent a heartfelt message to Mrs. Lisa Wendolek who has organized this event for so many years. He relayed his story of the teacher that inspired him to follow his dream and become a professional singer at his talent show many years ago.

Mr. McEwan's class certainly did ROCK as they headbanged, shredded on cardboard guitars, and got the crowd involved in their high-energy performance of I WANNA ROCK!



Not to be outdone, Mrs. Such's 4th grade class at Holman School also dressed to impress in their best 80's rock-star gear and rocked out to the song "Nothing But A Good Time" by Poison at this year's 50th Anniversary Talent Show. The talented students sang along to and performed an exciting choreographed dance to the song. As a special surprise to her class, Mrs. Such contacted the lead singer of Poison, Bret Michaels, who sent a personal video message of good luck to the class, which was played on the screen before the performance. Michaels told the students to, "Live it, own it, and have nothing but a great time" during their performance. What a fantastic job!

Through the power of social media, two famous rock stars took time out of their days to connect with the students of Holman Elementary and teach them that if they are truly dedicated to their dreams, they may come true as well!

ROCK ON! ■



Liberty Students Work to Preserve Native Blue Bird Population

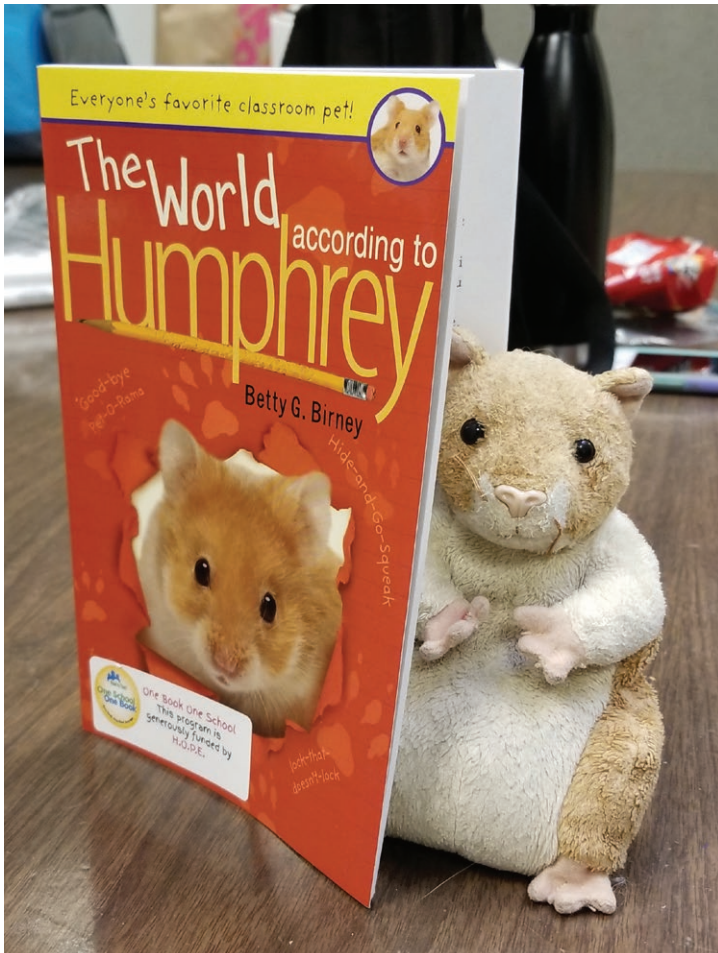
Since last summer, students from Jackson Liberty High School have been working with Laura M. Stone, Vice President of the New Jersey Bluebird Society. Together, the students work alongside of Ms. Stone to monitor nest boxes of the New Jersey Bluebird, an endangered species. The data collected is shared with Cornell University as part of a bluebird study.

Ms. Stone, Liberty teacher Ms. Russo and her students recently met to discuss the idea of putting a few bird boxes at Jackson

Liberty High School. With the support of the school principal Mr. Brignola, the head of maintenance Mr. Holm, and fellow teacher Mr. Lux, the school was able to make this happen.

Ms. Stone provided the school with two bird boxes and protective tubes to prevent squirrels and snakes from disturbing the nests. Instructions were also given on how to assemble and properly mount the boxes. Mr. Lux worked with the class to mount and secure the boxes so that they can soon be placed on campus near the baseball and soccer fields. ■





Humphrey Hits Holman

During the month of March, the entire Holman school community participated in One School One Book. Everyone including students in grades K-5, teachers, parents, support staff and administrators read the same book, *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty Birney. To begin

the program and get students excited, cheerleaders performed at a kick-off pep rally. The students participated in Humphrey cheers and received their free book provided by HOPE, Holman Organization for Parents and Educators.

The goal of the school-wide activity was to promote and enhance family literacy. Students read or were read to each night at home and participated in daily Humphrey trivia questions. Many classes worked on Humphrey-based activities while others partnered up for buddy projects. In a survey sent out to parents and students, responses were overwhelmingly positive. One parent stated, "The entire family looked forward to reading Humphrey every night. It gave us a chance to talk and bond. I definitely think this should be included as a yearly project." ■

Go Baby Go at Liberty High School

Science students from Liberty High School worked with teachers and therapists throughout the school year to obtain and modify a Powerwheels Jeep for a student in the Preschool Disabled program as part of the nationally recognized Go Baby Go program founded by the University of Delaware. This program provides the modifications needed for children with disabilities to use battery powered vehicles to gain mobility, learn cause and effect, explore their environments and play with their peers. With the first Jeep project near completion, students and staff are hoping to continue the program next year and possibly expand into meeting other needs as well. The team of students and teachers that worked on this project are always open to donations of vehicles or supplies. Please contact Mary Russo or Tina Topeleski at Liberty High School or Natalie Zozzaro at Rosenauer Elementary School for more information about donations. ■



Annual Switlik Living Wax Museum & Young Authors Showcase

On Thursday, April 11th, Switlik Elementary School held a very special night to showcase the wonderful work and learning going on throughout their school. These events gave teachers a chance to highlight the many talents of the young actors and authors of all ages and grade levels at Switlik. With support from the Jackson Education Association and the local Jackson Rotary Club, parents and guests were treated to hallways filled with examples of published student writing! Everyone was invited to leave "post it note" comments to congratulate each author on their spectacular and creative work that was displayed all over the hallways for all to enjoy. Finally, guests also had the opportunity to visit the All Purpose Room where the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Enrichment students displayed presentation boards filled with facts and photos about famous people throughout history. Students wore costumes and used props that represented the historical figures they researched. Using their public speaking skills, the children gave all of the guests a two minute speech filled with all the information and fun facts about their person from from social studies, science and history. It was amazing to see how well they were able to memorize their speeches and tell of all of the interesting information about the person they researched - and actually portrayed in both costume and character that night! ■





McAuliffe Students Go On An Amazing Race

Students visiting the McAuliffe library during the months of April and May were treated to a trip around the world via the Dewey Decimal System through a fun and interactive activity based on the reality television show The Amazing Race. Ten stations were set up throughout the room, each representing a different part of the nonfiction section of the library. At each stop, students were asked to perform a task based on the books and topics that can be found in each area. Activities included Beat It, where students attempted to beat the Guinness World Record of picking up pennies using chopsticks, Fairy Tale Fate, where students were asked to answer 20 trivia questions about well known fairy tales, and Count Me In, an activity that had students placing the French words for the numbers one through ten in the correct order.

All of the students that participated enjoyed themselves immensely and look forward to visiting the nonfiction section of the library with a new confidence about the Dewey Decimal System and how it works! ■

Liberty's Greenhouse

Students and staff are GREEN with envy over the hydroponic vegetation they grew in Earth and Environmental class. The Biology classes were "Giving Peas a Chance" with their recreation of Gregor Mendel's genetics of cross pollinating pea plants. ■



Poem in Your Pocket Day

The month of April is National Poetry Month and on April 30th, the Holman School Community celebrated in a special way with "Poem in Your Pocket Day." On this day, everyone celebrated by reading poems during the morning announcements, and teachers and students carried poems in their pockets and shared them with each other throughout the day. The fifth grade students in Mrs. Milon and Mrs. Kowalewski's class met with their Kindergarten buddies in

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Jackson Education Association

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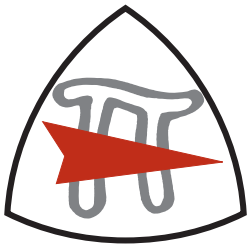
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Stephanie Healy, *Corresponding Secretary*

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Mrs. Albertino's class to share poems. The 5th graders wrote haiku poems which they read to their kindergarten buddies, and then the 5th graders helped the kindergarteners write acrostic poems. ■



Barbara McGill's Preschool class at Rosenauer made robots for their Earth day project.