

PRIDE *in Education*



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Crawford Hometown Hero Club Supports Community!

Hometown Heroes is a registered nationwide nonprofit organization that gives to the community and believes in paying forward. They assist with things such as Hurricane Relief, Homelessness, Drug Abuse, Domestic Violence, and much more. Hometown Heroes has chosen to partner with Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary School during the 2019-2020 school year to assist with the school based program. Our school has formed a hometown heroes club to raise funds and support local programs within the Crawford-Rodriguez School and Jackson Community. Partnering with this group allows us to organize through the Hometown Heroes 501(c) (3) charity. They also help provide guidance with how to create a successful fundraiser. Here at Crawford, there are twelve fifth graders who have met weekly to discuss different things they can do to help their school and community. This year, they focused on "Toothbrush Donations!"

"On behalf of the Crawford-Rodriguez Hometown Heroes Club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your toothbrush donations. I am pleased to say that as a school, we collected over 1,000 toothbrushes. Over this past weekend, most of our toothbrushes have found fantastic new homes. Over 150 went directly to our very own Jackson Police and Fire department. Approximately 200 of them are going to be placed into care packages that will be given to doctors and nurses at Jersey Shore Medical Center. About 60 were given to the Howell Township Fire Department. Over 100 were donated to a shelter for battered women in Ocean County. The rest are in the process of being sent to CentraState Medical Center. As always, our Crawford-Rodriguez family and friends pull together. Finally, we are pleased to announce that the class with the most donations was Mrs. Gonzalez! Stay Safe and Well!"—Jaimy Schossberg, Crawford-Rodriguez Hometown Heroes Club Advisor. ■

Johnson Students "Sit, Stay, Code" w/Mighty!



When students visit the H.C. Johnson Library they are often greeted at the door by our school's very own therapy dog, Mighty. Mighty works with students to help sharpen social skills, explore social-emotional competencies, and to foster empathy. Mighty is undoubtedly one of our most beloved instructors and has helped us to become an entire school steeped in the exploration of self and social awareness, problem-solving, and teamwork.

Mighty and his team were recently awarded two grants from the *American Library Association* for their "Coding with a Canine" initiative. During Computer Science Education Week, students had the opportunity to join Mighty to explore Google's CS-First Code Your Hero lesson. Mighty's team was especially interested in the Code Your Hero activity, as it complements their goal of integrating social-emotional learning into computer science exploration. ■



Elms Celebrates Read Across America Week!

This year Elms celebrated RAA week with a variety of new and exciting events. The week kicked off with guest readers from our community, ranging from service men and women, to retired teachers to community leaders. Even our superintendent Dr. Genco joined in the fun! The following day we had a school wide vocabulary parade complete with homemade creative costumes centered around “words.” Students paraded around the school and were awarded amazing prize baskets compliments of JEA Pride. Families were invited back that evening to keep the fun going, and were treated to some Jackson Memorial student volunteers who used their talents to “face paint” interested attendees. Teachers were enjoying time with students through creating bookmarks, playing games such as Pictionary and Charades, and even doing read alouds to the kids. There surely was a great time had by all! ■



Rosenauer Players Take On Seussical!

The Rosenauer Elementary Musical Theatre Club was founded in 2019 by director and music teacher, Mrs. Lynnea Noble. The Rosenauer Players have a large percentage of the eligible student population in this year’s production of Seussical Kids and were just awarded a grant from the Charlie Lovett Fund for Elementary Drama. Great job everyone, we are very proud of you! ■



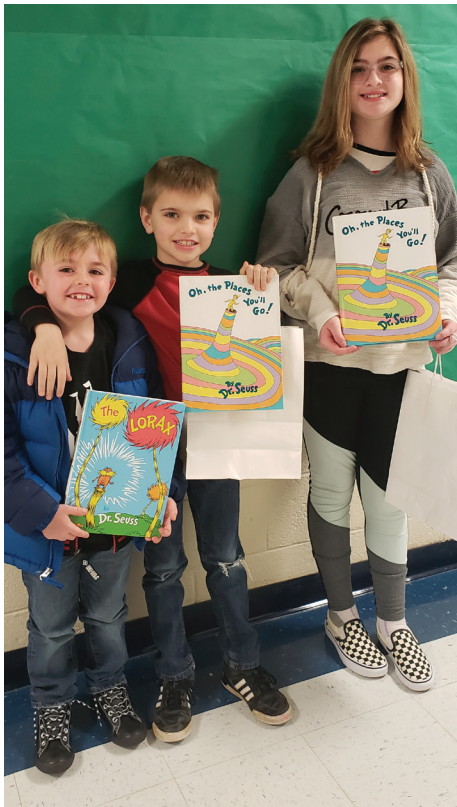
Read Across America Traditions at Holman School

Holman School once again held their annual Dr. Seuss Read Across America Pajama Party at the end of February. Events during the evening included listening to stories read by staff members, shopping at our HOPE-sponsored Scholastic



Book Fair, chances to win lots of prizes, and watching a live performance of a Dr. Seuss story on stage, acted out by Holman staff members. This year's Dr. Seuss story was *Daisy Head Mayzie*, and the show was enjoyed by students and their families. More than 40 Holman Staff members came back to help with this evening event, which is a great celebration of reading for the entire Holman School community. ■

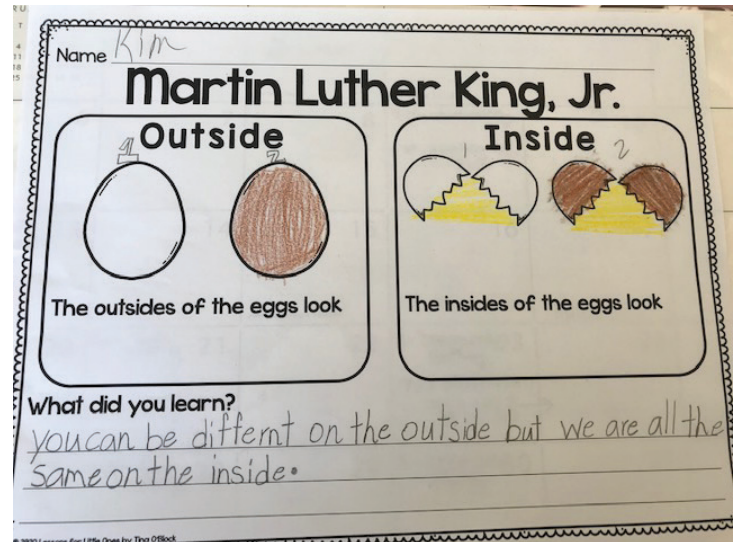
Switlik Celebrates Read Across America During Annual "Book Fair" Night



Thank you all for attending our annual Switlik School "Read Across America" celebration, supported by the Jackson Education Association and Switlik PTN. We had all of our staff members at Switlik sign some very special giveaways, which were ultimately raffled off to our students during our Book Fair event. Our 3 raffle winners during the evening were- 1st grader Braedon Birudaraju, 3rd grader William Dickson, and 5th grader Alexandria Capizzano. Congratulations to all and thanks again

to everyone for their supporting our school literacy initiative and reading programs! ■

Eggs-cellent Diversity Lesson at Holman School!



During January, Holman first grade students in Ms. Mayer's and Ms. Many's class learned all about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They talked about the importance of including everyone and how it is good to have a classroom that is diverse. The students completed an egg experiment predicting what the inside of a brown-shelled egg and white-shelled egg would look like. They were very happy to see that even though the eggs were different on the outside, they were exactly the same on the inside—just like the kids themselves! ■





Switlik School Celebrates Our Wonderful Kindergarten “Super Readers”

Switlik School recently hosted a very special event for our Kindergarten learners, which really showed how our building celebrates both “kindness” and “character development.” The entire Switlik community lined up throughout our hallways to celebrate our youngest students as they paraded around our building. Students and staff cheered and held signs because they all wanted to congratulate and recognize the hard work of our youngest students for working so hard with their reading program all year long! It was such a wonderful event, led by our outstanding Kindergarten team! Great job all! ■



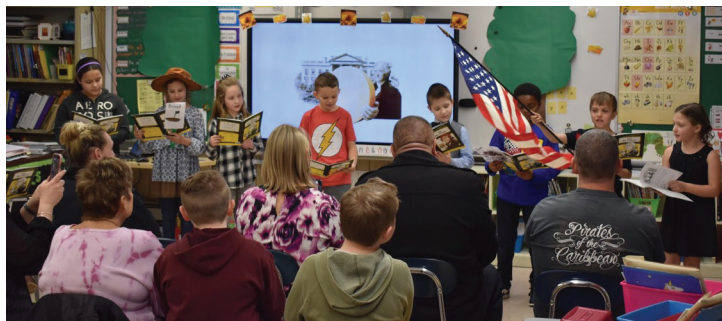
Goetz Students Earn Place in NJ Allstate Honor Choir



Congratulations to Goetz Chorus students for being selected for the prestigious NJ Allstate Middle School/Junior High School Honor Choir! Eighth Grader Kyra Ginelli and Seventh Grader Matthew Harris faced tough competition for these enviable positions in the prestigious New Jersey Allstate Honor Choir. They auditioned with hundreds of other middle and junior high school students in seventh through ninth grades from across the state of New Jersey. The rigorous audition process required candidates to sing scales and a prepared solo, which were adjudicated by a panel of music teachers from throughout the state. Congratulations to Kyra and Matthew for their hard work and dedication to music! Eighth graders Rachel Buchinsky, Lana Dubrow, and Katie Volltrauer merited an honorable mention as well. Best wishes to all of these fine musicians on their continued success! ■

Readers Theater Returns to Switlik School

Another season of “Readers Theater” at Switlik School recently came to an end. Various Switlik teachers led participating students as they took on “character roles” and performed for their loved ones! Plays were based on short stories where students study to become a character and recite their lines to make the final performance come alive. All of the staff and especially the students involved with our Readers Theater program worked very hard preparing for their shows. Congrats to all—everyone did a wonderful job! ■



Crawford Celebrates 100th Day of School!

Mrs. Sanzone's and Mrs. Alkalay's 3rd Grade class enjoyed celebrating the 100th Day of School dressing up as one hundred year old men and women. The “senior” costume winners were awarded to Jasleen Vazquez and Ridwan Adebayo. Great job everyone—you all looked fantastic! ■



Goetz Students Enjoy All-Shore Performance

Student musicians from the Carl W. Goetz Middle School performed in the All-Shore Intermediate Band concert at Millstone Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, February 4th.

The All Shore Intermediate Band consists of some of the finest middle school student musicians in Monmouth and Ocean counties. These students performed a program that was challenging to play and thrilling to hear. It was truly a night of musical excellence.

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Students from the Goetz Middle School included; Nataly Torres-Miron and Bloom Swindell on the clarinet, Nathan Towlen on the tenor saxophone, Matthew Scuzzese on the trumpet and Anthony Mazzio on percussion. After a rigorous rehearsal schedule during the months of December and January, the students performed two concerts on February 4th. The concerts featured guest conductor Christopher Bernotas, who is currently an active composer and arranger of music for the middle school bands. Two of his compositions were featured, Snowfall and Boundless. Each piece proved to be a challenge for the students to play, with the conductor providing a unique perspective of his music. Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Fodor, and Mr. Ficarra who helped the students prepare for the concert are extremely proud of the superior performances by the ensemble. It is their hope that more Jackson students will audition for the All Shore Intermediate Band next year and continue this trend of music excellence in the school district. The All-Shore Intermediate Band began in 1958 and focuses on raising the caliber of musical performances while challenging exceptional band musicians. It strives to encourage the performance of quality band music while promoting a spirit of cooperation and fellowship among music educators in the area; and stimulating wider public interest in music education. ■

Rosenauer Celebrates “Cultural Diversity” Together!

3rd Grade Students held a Culture Day event as a culminating activity to their Social Studies Unit on Cultural Diversity. Students in Mrs. Lynch’s, Mrs. Vetrano’s and Mrs. Amey’s classes selected one country that represented their family’s background. They interviewed a family member to learn more about their choice, then researched books from the school and township libraries as well as utilizing online resources to learn more. Students created posters to share all the fascinating facts they learned. They also each brought in a food dish from

their respective country while many students even dressed in clothing or colors representative of their countries. Families were invited to join the students for this event and we had an impressive turnout! ■



Liberty Team Receives Grant From Sustainable Jersey for Schools



With lots of support and a great project team, Jackson School District was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey for Schools and NJEA. Below are a few words from Geoffrey Brignola, Jackson Liberty High School Principal, in recognition of this honor.

“I am so proud that Jackson Liberty High School has earned this grant, which will allow us to infuse sustainability themes into many areas of



study for our students The passion and innovation in our science classes will advance even further, thanks to the hard work of teacher Mary Russo and to the generosity of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program. The Authentic Science Research (ASR) classes that will be supported through this grant will help students understand how important sustainability actions are at both the cellular and global levels. Using DNA barcoding technology and research into native plant and insect species, our students will research and discover how ecosystems are impacted over time by human behavior. The work they will be doing will also expose students to the value of a career in sustainability science and in the role we all play in preserving our planet.”—Geoffrey Brignola, Principal, Jackson Liberty High School, Jackson Township School District, Ocean County ■

Johnson School Organizes “Soup-er Bowl Event”

In an effort to help our community, Mrs. Glushko’s Third Grade Class collected cans of soup for a fun “Soup-er” Bowl Event. Students in the H.C. Johnson School brought in cans of soup and placed them in the “Team Bin” of who they thought would win the Superbowl. The children had so much fun listening to the announcements each morning to see which team was winning. A total of 556 cans were collected and donated to The Jackson Food Pantry. ■



The McAuliffe School Held the National Geography Bee



On Tuesday January 14th, thirty five students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades participated in this competition. The questions covered geography, civilizations, cultures, physical features, and even more unique facts. McAuliffe students answered hundreds of questions correctly. In the end, the final two contestants needed the tiebreaker questions to determine a champion! Winners received globes, certificates and of course, a first place medal. Matthew Bacelo earned the right to take the qualifying test in hopes of representing Christa McAuliffe School in the National Geography Bee Competition while Ariya Yeshe and Christopher Macirowski rounded out our top three finishers. It was a very close competition—congrats to all for their hard work and participation! ■

Goetz Educator Recognized as “My Hero!”

Congratulations to Goetz educator Ms. Fisk as she was chosen by one of her former students and selected by the NJEA Public Relations Committee as our My Hero Works at School winner! NJEA partners with the Trenton Thunder baseball team to run this contest and is such a special honor for all involved. Not only did both parties get tickets to attend a Trenton Thunder baseball game back in September, but both are experiencing the full impact that teachers and students make on one another. How wonderful it is to have a student who goes out of their way in showing the respect and appreciation that they have for one of their hard working and dedicated teachers. ■



Jackson Liberty & Memorial Waksman Student Scholars Recognized!

High school students in the new Authentic Science Research (ASR) classes presented their findings this past January at Rutgers University as participants in the year-long Waksman Student Scholars Program (WSSP). The students were led by their peers, Liberty student, Ashley Waldron, and Memorial student Nicholas Tozzi, whose participation in WSSP actually began last school year! It all started with a competitive application process, followed by the successful completion of a summer program at The Waksman Institute of Microbiology. Ashley and Nicholas spent over sixty hours at the Institute learning such laboratory techniques as polymerase chain reaction (pcr) and gel electrophoresis. The goal was to learn how to sequence unique cDNA sequences from a species of duckweed called *Landotia punctata*, a potential biofuel. In total, student leaders from 28 schools were trained this summer by the WSSP staff, led by program director, Dr. Andrew Vershon. In September, student leaders assisted their teachers by bringing the project back to their schools. The Jackson ASR students have done a fantastic job thus far and hope to have at least one published sequence by the end of this school year. All WSSP student participants will have an opportunity to have their sequences published with NCBI, a national database used by scientists from all over the world. In addition to their participation in WSSP, the ASR students have been very busy working independently on the development of their own authentic research projects. Thus far, after reading many general and scientific journal articles, students are beginning to focus on one particular topic. Areas of interest include but are not limited to, applications of laser printing, the impact of microplastics on the environment, prey capturing techniques of carnivorous plants, golf biomechanics, the use of drone technology in law enforcement, the impact of bilingualism on cognitive development and the development of applications to help Alzheimer's patients. ■



McAuliffe Spelling Bee Winners Announced!

The 2020 Scripps Spelling Bee was held in the IMC back on January 23rd. There were 26 students who competed; the Bee lasted 10 rounds ending with a tie breaker for third place.

Maggie Braun won the tie breaker and was awarded third place. Haash Mehta won second place and Faith Montana won first place. The Jackson Rotary Club generously provided gift certificates to the top three contestants and a trophy for our first place winner. Jackson Rotary President William Hybbeneth attended the Spelling Bee and presented the awards. Faith will also receive a one year subscription to Britannica Kids Online. A special thank you to our judges and scorekeepers, Melissa O'Neill, Sherri Halligan and Eileen Kochis. We also want to give an extra special thank you to our master of ceremonies and pronouncer, Aju Mathews. Congratulations to all of our participants and good luck to all in your future competitions! ■



McAuliffe Robotics Team Competes in First Tech Challenge!



On Saturday, January 25, Christa McAuliffe Middle School's Robotics Team, The Lion's Pride, competed in the FirstTech Challenge at the RWJ Barnabas Arena in Toms River with their team Coaches Nicole Breccia and Bridgit Valgenti. In the Challenge, teams of middle school and high school aged students design, build and program a robot to play a floor game against other teams' creations. The Team brought the robot that they built, named Mufasa, and battled 26 other teams. This was their first competition and they placed 7th out of 27 teams. The Lion's Pride Team received a grant from The DEKA Foundation to cover the cost of the competition registration and to pay for a portion of the robot building supplies. Great job to all! ■



Liberty School Students Partner w/Jackson Forest Resource Educational Center

The Jackson School District is proud to have established a lasting partnership with the Jackson Forest Resource Educational Center (FREC). From the trout release program to the annual forestry festival to independent research projects, the FREC provides several engaging and outside learning opportunities for our students. Pictured below are JLHS seniors Laura Lozano and Preston Williams, along with recent graduate Joseph Cho. This group, along with their mentor Dr Laura Stone, have been monitoring nest boxes twice a week at the FREC for the past three years and report their findings on the Cornell University nestwatch.org web site. The photos depict the group's most recent effort which includes having nest boxes built by the Liberty High School wood shop and then ultimately placed around the school campus. The goal is to introduce future generations of JLHS students to this special project through learning about and assisting the North American Bluebird Society and the New Jersey Bluebird Society efforts in recovering and maintaining the bluebird population. ■

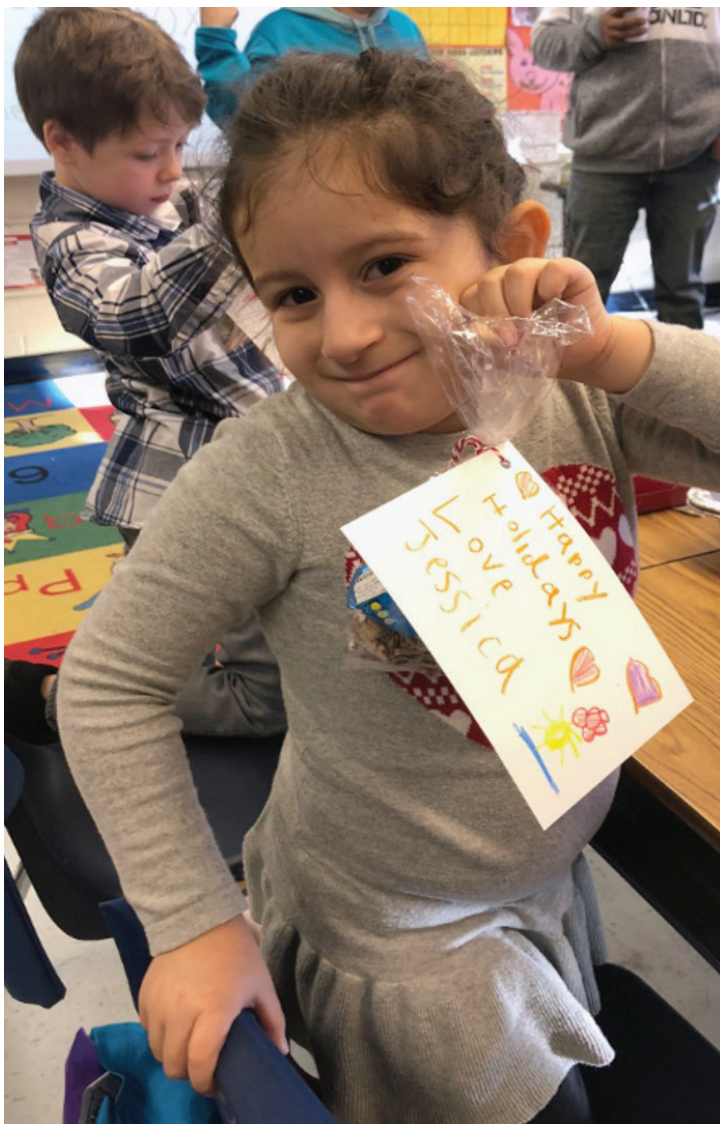
Switlik 1st Grade Spreads Kindness to Jackson Police Department!

Back during their holiday celebrations, Mrs. Kahn's Class was diligently spreading kindness to first responders! Class parents worked together donating items for our heroes at the Jackson Police Department. This was spearheaded by Mrs. Messer who spoke to the students about how not all men and women get to be home with their families during special events and holidays. As the are out protecting us

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all, they are truly our very special heroes everyday! Students made cards including heartfelt messages and pictures and attached a care package filled with goodies! ■



Crawford 3rd Grade Class Engineer Gingerbread Houses!

Mrs. Sanzone's & Mrs. Alkalay's 3rd grade class at Crawford enjoyed being engineers as they measured the perimeter & area of wooden gingerbread houses and worked together to design, change, and adorn the houses. Thank you to our awesome "parent elves" Mrs. Tolska, Mrs. Wall, Mrs. Hawxhurst, Ms. Francis and special thanks to Jackson 8th grader Kayleen Tolska (a former Crawford student who came back to help her sister). Together they helped make the date even sweeter! ■



Goetz Students Training to Become Future Business Leaders!

The Goetz "Future Business Leaders of America" are led by teachers Lauren Andersen, Yvonne Thomas, Jessica Thomas, and Kaitlyn Sorochnka. Together they

collaborated on a community project where they spearheaded the creation of 40 beds to be dropped off at the Tinton Falls and Monmouth County ASPCA. Additionally, they raised over \$1000 just by selling chocolate bars during a recent fundraiser. Great job everyone—you certainly set a wonderful example for all to follow! ■



Memorial Students Continue as Future Business Leaders of America!



For the 2019-2020 school year, the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) at Jackson Memorial High School continued to partner with the Chick-fil-A in Howell in a unique leadership program. The Chick-fil-A Leader Academy is a national leadership program that provides students the platform they need to transform their schools and impact their communities. 30 members of FBLA have committed to this program and so far, it's been a huge success. Students must attend monthly leader lab training and must complete 3 service projects throughout the course of the school year. The first service project was completed during the 2-hour kickoff event. The students have created and sent off care packages to active members of our military and continue to reach out to the Vintage Shop at McAuliffe Middle School to see if the shop needs any donations or assistance in sorting the clothes or with running the shop. The members of the Leader Academy are so excited to be able to volunteer their time to assist the Jackson community. I am excited to see what the students continue to create in the future. ■

Crawford School Welcomes Alumni During 3rd Grade Class Elections!

During November of this school year, students in Mr. Maher and Mrs. Jankowski's class received a visit from all of their former Class Presidents and Vice Presidents.

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Jackson Education Association

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Lisa Crate, *President*

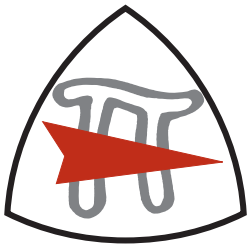
Brian Morgan, *Vice President*

Marcus Vilecco, *Treasurer*

Stephanie Healy, *Corresponding Secretary*

Elaine Holleran, *Recording Secretary*

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For the last three years, these amazing students have returned to their alma mater to honor the newly elected Class President and Vice President and take part in the swearing-in ceremony. This year, President Ryan Yurgel and Vice President Elizabeth Nudelmann were sworn in by former Class President Joseph Hittinger (2019) and former Vice President Ryan Leirim (2018). It's a fantastic opportunity for the current 3rd graders to connect with the older students and hear their stories of when they were in third grade. One former Vice President, Michael McCloud, even used FaceTime during the event from his home in Switzerland! The older students have really embraced this experience. They act as true role models for the younger students. It's a priceless experience to witness the expressions

on the 3rd graders faces' as they get a chance to work with the "big kids," on drafting classroom legislation. The older students have said that they now look forward to this event each and every November. Former Class President, Christopher Blodgett, a senior at Jackson Liberty High School has already pledged to return for this event each and every year in the future beyond his graduation from the Jackson School District. A huge thank you to our principal, Mrs. Jean-Denis, for organizing the bus to pick up the older students from Liberty H.S. and McAuliffe Middle School. Mrs. Jean-Denis has even had the opportunity to ride the bus as a chaperone. She has said that she absolutely loves the opportunity to re-connect with a few of her Crawford alumni. See you next November, kids! ■

