

# PRIDE *in Education*



Volume 14 Number 2

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## Liberty & McAuliffe Students Participate in First Tech Robotics Showcase!

**M**cAuliffe Media Specialist Bridgit Lapierre Valgenti (McAuliffe) & Liberty Computer Science & STEM teacher Christopher Perry (Liberty) successfully coached their middle & high school FIRST Tech Robotics Teams. In this innovative and high tech program, students design, build, wire, and program a robot to compete in a robotics challenge against other schools.

Earlier this year, the high school team placed 15 out of 33, while the middle school team placed 19 out of 33. Both teams were scheduled to compete again during the winter months for a chance to make it to their state tournament in March. All students and their coaches have continued practicing together to prepare for these wonderful events that test their skills and showcase their unique talents. Great job teams - you make us all so proud with your achievements and accomplishments in the very challenging fields of science, technology, engineering and computer science! ■



## Switlik Artists Inspire a Community Through an Expression of Art & Kindness!

**I**t was with great pleasure that the students of Switlik Elementary, across all grade levels from PreSchool through 5th grade, helped to create Valentine's Day art and cards to share with some very special community heroes! By crafting their amazing creations including collage art, 3D cards, and wax resist paintings, our students worked creatively to let healthcare workers at CentraState Hospital know they're being thought of with love. The artwork was guided under the direction of our very talented art teacher, Ms.

Veronica Langer, who has become such a valuable addition to our building and such a role model for all of our students and staff. We appreciated the opportunity to share our creativity, as well as our appreciation for all these hospital workers have done-and continue to do-to keep our community healthy, especially during this difficult period of time in relation to COVID-19. ■



## Jackson Memorial Musicians Continue to Inspire as They Showcase Both Their Hard Work & Talents in The Performing Arts!

**I**nvest two minutes of your day and genuinely take a listen: encouragement and beautiful music will make your day. *"I would teach children music, physics and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning."* — Plato.

Watching art in action with our Mr. Diaz taking the lead. How lucky the students of Jackson Memorial are to have guidance and instruction from one of the best! In this performance, Memorial students are working on "Extraordinary Machines of Clockwork and Steam" by Scott Watson. ■



## Baby Chicks Provide Life Lessons For Kindergarteners at Switlik Elementary School!

**A**ll Kindergarten students at Switlik Elementary School recently got a fun and active lesson in the life cycle of a chicken first hand while observing a classroom incubation and hatching chamber containing eggs which would soon reveal some little furry friends. As they patiently waited all week for them to "hatch" and reveal themselves, the students were so excited to see all our little fur friends come to life and display their unique little personalities for all to enjoy and learn from. Kindergarten teacher Ms. Christine Temple said the project, which would not be possible without the gracious funding of the Switlik Parent Teacher Network, (PTN) is one of the students' favorite science activities for the year. Ms. Temple said her students were "so excited when the farmer from Quiver Farm first came into their room with all the supplies. She added that she enjoyed watching her students during this 10-day lesson. It's such a treat that the kids get to be little farmers for the two-week period and help with the caring and turning of the eggs each day. This is what makes being here in school so special and fun! ■



## There's 'Snow' Place Like School @ Rosenauer Elementary!

**R**osenauer Elementary may be the smallest school in the Jackson School District but boy do they have a lot of fun during their daily learning lessons and activities. For a few years they have been teaching some of our youngest preschool students who have certainly shined around the hallways. Check out some of the wonderful artwork that they recently created and displayed for all to see. The future is bright in our district as we continue to expand upon our preschool program if these works serve as a preview for the talent that has yet to come! ■





## “Engineering Week 2022” Showcases Brilliant Minds & Innovative Engineering Designs at Goetz Middle School!

Teachers Mrs. Riccardi and Mrs. Daton welcomed some future engineers into the Goetz Library during Discovery’s Engineering Week. Students were encouraged to “Reimagine the Possible” and think like engineers! Science classes had the opportunity to learn about the principles of engineering with hands-on activities that focused on essential questions. In cooperative groups,

students learned about the forces of gravity and friction by safely transporting a passenger (a pingpong ball!) on a zipline. They tested variables to make their zipline carriage travel faster or slower. At the cup stacking station, students saw Newton’s First Law of Motion in action as they created a tower of cups separated by notecards with string. How could they get their tower to fall into neatly stacked cups? Key concepts of tension and suspension were the focus of the bridge building station. Students used two pieces of copy paper and six inches of tape to construct a bridge that would hold as many pennies as possible. Other activities included testing road surfaces using model toy trucks, free building lego creations, and recreating a design model using IO Blocks. Students rotated to each area and completed an Engineering Report noting predictions and observations. A slideshow focusing on engineering careers, created by Mrs. Riccardi’s Engineering classes was displayed. Fun and functional learning was reinforced with classroom discussions of hypotheses and results. ■



## Memorial Wrestling Team Exemplifies School Spirit & Sportsmanship!

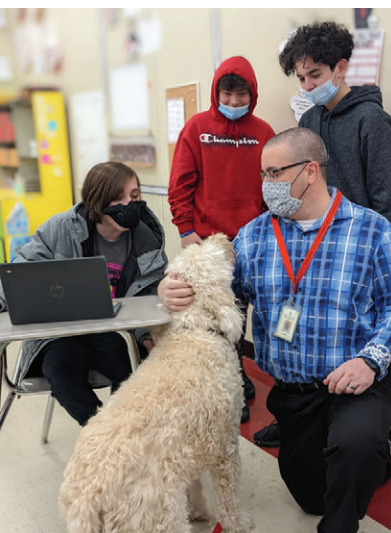
For many students, sports bring out the best in them and the tradition of the Jackson Memorial Wrestling program is certainly a prime example of this. As our district growth continues to grow throughout the decades, the success of our district wrestling programs is certainly something we are so proud of. Check out this recent photo of the JMHS wrestling team after their last dual meet of the season. Team spirit and support for fellow teammates is an important part of every sport in the district. We are so proud of the accomplishments of all our student athletes throughout the Jackson School District and community. Your hard work, perseverance, and sportsmanship no matter if you win or lose is something to certainly be commended for! ■

## Johnson Students Go Back to The 90’s!

Spirit Days seem to be the best days in any school. That’s certainly the case at Johnson Elementary where they celebrate all kinds of things and really take great notice of the music, fashion, and pop culture from decades past! Check out a few of Mrs. Glushko’s students as they nailed ‘90s Day at Johnson Elementary! Gotta love the flannel - and it really never goes out of style, especially during the colder winter months! ■







## Goetz “Gets” a Taste of Gnocchi!

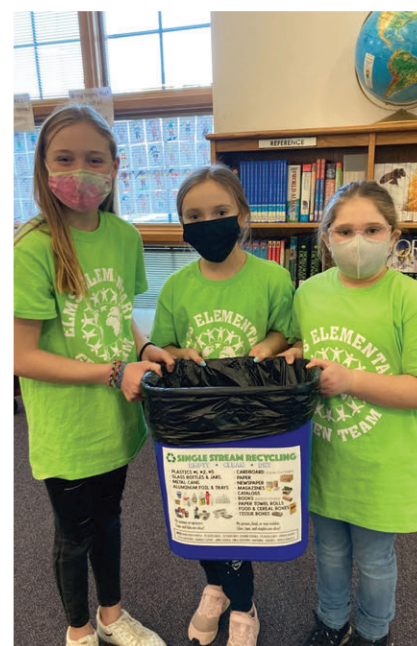
**M**ondays aren’t so “Monday-ish” since Gnocchi, the therapy dog, started spending each one with the staff and students at Goetz. A 2019 study published by the National Institute of Health found that a dog present in the classroom promotes positive mood and provides significant anti-stress effects on the body. But did we really need a study to tell us that? All it takes for anyone to understand this is just by witnessing the reactions from staff and students at Goetz when Gnocchi visits, which are always overwhelmingly positive. Everyone loves and respects him so much that he is getting spoiled with treats and endless affection. Having Gnocchi at school has given so many of us a connection we didn’t know we had. His presences relaxes us all and makes us all better humans

in being around an animal that provides immediate love and affection to absolutely everyone he encounters, no matter who they are or what their background is. Gnocchi tries to stop in when students are working in class. But you can usually find him in the library where Mrs. Daton, our lovely librarian, sets a schedule for him each week - which always fills up quickly. Gnocchi is not new to the district. In years past, he visited Rosenauer where children read to him. He has even attended school in the summer to keep kids company when they read. He offers a calming effect on everyone. If you are not a “dog” person he respects boundaries and moves on to the next person, no hard feelings. Feel free to follow Gnocchi on Instagram: @gnocchithegolddoodle ■

## Elms Elementary School Recognized as a State of NJ “Green Ribbon School!”

**E**lms Elementary has been recognized as a NJ Green Ribbon School and a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School nominee for their dedication to resource efficiency, health and wellness, and environmental and sustainability education. The Elms Student Green Team has been busy this winter! Advisor Ms. Shaina Brenner led the group with her PTN grant-funded initiative to bring new recycling containers into each classroom and introduce new routines school-wide. Our Green Team members personally delivered new blue recycling bins to each homeroom and explained exactly what could be placed in them. Students then interacted by choosing which items needed to be trashed and which items could be recycled. All students and staff members understand that clean, dry items are collected daily by our custodians and placed into proper receptacles. Additionally, our Green Team hosted JSD Energy Education Specialist, John Blair. He presented information regarding his green career. Mr. Blair’s knowledge and expertise helped students understand how all kinds of conservation (e.g. light, energy, heat) can go a long way towards saving our

district money and saving our environment from the overuse of fossil fuels. Looking ahead to the near future, the Green Team will be revamping our courtyard garden with some very exciting new projects and creating a recycling station for items not accepted at our local recycling center. ■





## McAuliffe Student Council Unites All to Promote Community Service!

**M**cAuliffe Student Council has had some busy months. Under the guidance of the advisors, Jaime Hesnan and Jerri Parlow, members educated their peers, spread holiday cheer, and provided food to those in need. Members have helped to promote a sense of unity within the school, while also providing service to our local community. November is National Diabetes Month. Diabetes takes an enormous personal toll on many of our very own McAuliffe students, and Student Council wanted to help shed light on this disease by spreading awareness as well as prevention. Members gathered facts and displayed them on large blue ribbons that adorned the school. Student Council President Peyton Brown and Vice-President Jordyn Osbourne shared many facts and statistics on Wake-Up McAuliffe. All students were encouraged to wear blue on November 15th. It was great to see our students come together for this cause. ■



## Johnson Elementary School Students Ran an Extended “Overtime” Drive in Supporting The Jackson Food Pantry!

**M**any of our Jackson schools do collections in support of our community food pantry, but no one does it with more passion or fun as the Johnson Elementary School. As they have in years past, Mrs. Glushko along with all of the students and staff at Johnson Elementary held their annual Soup-er Bowl collection but for the first time in 6 years, they actually went into “overtime.” The final score was the Rams with 260 cans & the Bengals with 297! A total of 557 cans were collected and donated to the Jackson Food Pantry. Check out the photos that they submitted which certainly show off a job so well done! ■



## Read Across America Story Walk at Holman Elementary School!

**T**his year Holman School celebrated Read Across America with a Story Walk. The pages of the book *And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon* by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel were mounted onto signs and placed around the front of the school. Students, teachers, and families were invited to walk along the Story Walk reading the book aloud— or, they could visit the Holman School webpage and listen to videos of staff members reading the different pages aloud. More than 30 Holman staff members recorded videos for this project. The Story Walk was a great way to listen to a fun story, get some exercise and fresh air, and celebrate the wonders of reading! Many thanks to the JEA for sponsoring this event! ■







## Spreading Kindness Like Confetti at Holman School!

**M**rs. Such and Ms. Schiffman's 3rd grade class at Holman School participated in their own Kindness Challenge! Coinciding with National Kindness Week at Holman, the students wrote and delivered "Kindness Grams" to all faculty and friends throughout the entire month of February. Faculty members proudly displayed their Kindness Grams on their doors for all to see. The class goal was to spread a smile on every face within the school, and it seemed to have worked! "Writing a Kindness Gram everyday to someone and making them smile really made me feel happy inside," said one student. "Getting a Kindness Gram in my mailbox from a student thanking me for what I do really made my day," said one faculty member. The heartfelt thoughts of the students written in these precious little notes helped to spread kindness like confetti throughout the Holman community! ■

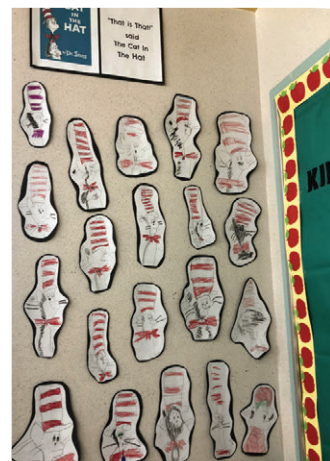


## McAuliffe Students Send Love, One Holiday Card at a Time!

“Sending love, one holiday card at a time!” McAuliffe's Student Council spread joy and cheer to those in need by participating in the "Angel Card Project." This is an internet-wide charity event that provides a unique chance to make a difference in the life of someone who is hurting or less fortunate by volunteering to send holiday cards. Members spent time creating handmade cards to send to specific people that could use some extra holiday cheer during the winter months. We even received thank you cards from recipients about how our cards brought a smile to their face! What a touching way to give back! ■

## Crawford Kindergarten Students Celebrate Dr. Seuss w/Guided Drawing Activity!

**O**ne thing that we can certainly say about all of our Jackson School District students, from per-school through high school is that they are so talented when it comes to the arts. Check out these super cute creations made by our Crawford Kindergarteners in Mrs. Goldstein's class. Under her expert teaching and direction, they made guided drawings of Dr. Seuss to celebrate The Cat in the Hat for Read Across America/ Dr. Seuss's birthday. Even the editor of this newsletter can not draw nearly as well, not to mention the attention to detail with coloring features. Our hallways are certainly brighter due to the talents of our students who love to show off their work and creativity for all to see! ■







## Goetz 6th Graders Study the Stone Ages While Their Classroom Student Teacher is Embarking for a Most Rewarding and Wonderful Career in His Own Future!

**V**incent Calandrucchio, a student teacher from Kean University, led Sheri Ellenport's 6th grade social studies classes through the Stone Ages. They wrapped up the era with some cave paintings as you can see in the photos above. And let's not forget to stress the importance of our district student teachers who train hard to become the future leaders of our students. The relationship between an experienced master teaching mentor and a young colleague pursuing the field is truly an art in itself and all of us in the building are all benefiting from this experience. Good luck to Vincent in your future endeavors and we cherish the time you have already spent with us! Our students are lucky to have learned from you while they also help teach you a little bit of what a career in education is all about! ■



## Elms Elementary "Booked It" During Read Across America Week!

**T**his year for Read Across America Elms Elementary booked it across the USA! Focusing on the diversity that exists right here in the U.S., grade levels explored various regions through nonfiction and fiction books. Staff and students worked diligently to create eye-catching displays in every hallway representing each region with history, trivia, and landmarks. Students participated in a school-wide scavenger hunt with a chance to win a pizza party. All week long students filled out raffle tickets for an opportunity to win exciting prizes, courtesy of JEA Pride and the Elms PTN. Our book-centered dress up days were tons of fun! We also invited families to join us in the classrooms to share and present about places they've been to around the U.S. Altogether, Elms celebrated another successful Read Across America week. ■





## McAuliffe Students Organize "Souper Bowl" Food Drive Challenge!

**I**n January we kicked off our very first "Souper" Bowl Food Drive Challenge. Homerooms competed against each other to see which class could collect the most canned goods. In total, over 1500 items were collected and donated to the Jackson Food Pantry! The top two homerooms that collected the most then went on to compete in this year's Super Bowl. Mrs. Halligan's homeroom raised the most items and chose to represent the LA Rams; Mr. Gliatta's homeroom came in 2nd place and represented the Cincinnati Bengals. Mrs. Halligan's homeroom was granted the champion and earned a donut party! The Jackson Food Pantry was overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation for all of McAuliffe's efforts in helping to provide the residents of our community with these donations. ■

## Johnson School Celebrates 100th Day!

**T**he 100th Day at any school is always met with celebration since it serves as a midpoint for the year. Students and staff reflect on how far they have come and strive even more to continue to meet and exceed goals for the current year. We want to take a moment to say that all of our students in the Jackson School District are to be commended for all their hard work and efforts, especially during the 2021-22 school year. Keep up the great work! ■



## Rosenauer Musicians Marching To The Beat!

**T**here are many renditions of multiple holiday classics no matter what time of year it is. Mrs. Noble's third grade students at Rosenauer Elementary may be one of the best in performing them all! Their recent live performance of "The Nutcracker March" really got us moving to their beat, which was done with such skill and precision. We love our little musicians and are so excited for them to learn about and appreciate the arts! ■



## It's Twin Day @ Jackson Liberty High School!

**A**s is the case in all schools, students and staff love themes. Even more so, we love when we can pair up with our friends and colleagues and truly show that we are one big family. This was the case during "It's Twin Day" at Liberty" and we even got to see a set of Be Kind triplets! Jackson teachers are the best because they know how to work hard and have fun, which makes our learning environment a wonderful place to be! ■



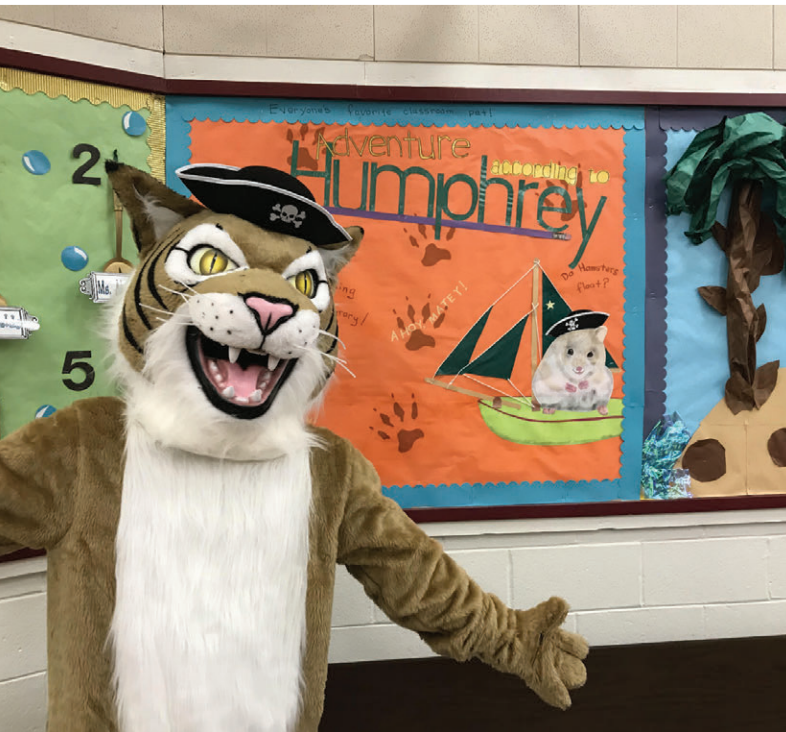
## So Much to Celebrate During “Kindness Week” at Holman School!

Celebrations galore took place at Holman Elementary School this winter! During the week of February 14-18, students and staff celebrated “Kindness Week” with different theme days, such as “Dress Like a Rockstar Day” and “Crazy Hair Day.” We also celebrated the 100th Day of School with some of our youngest friends dressing up like 100-year-old students! The following week, Holman celebrated Super Twosday (2/22/22) by wearing tie-dye and tutus. Also during that week, the school community celebrated Read Across America with a Scholastic Book Fair, sponsored by the Holman Organization of Parents and Educators (HOPE), wearing mismatched clothes on Wacky Wednesday, and school spirit day dressing school colors. ■



## Jackson Memorial “Dress Like a Student” Day!

Well this is certainly a new and creative “Spirit Day” activity that was enjoyed all throughout the Memorial hallways and classrooms. Our dedicated staff decided to “Dress Like a JMHS Student” for a day and as you can see, they completely succeeded with this fun themed task. Great job everyone—our students loved seeing you and your detailed outfits & accessories. ■



## One School, One Book Returns to Holman!

This March, for the fourth time in Holman history, the school participated in a very exciting program called One School, One Book. The entire school community (students, teachers, secretaries, the school nurse, paraprofessionals, and principal Mr. Karas) all read the same book at the same time! Even HOLMAN FAMILIES were able to join in the fun! Every Holman student received a copy of the book *Adventure According to Humphrey* by Betty Birney at the beginning of March, and throughout the month, students and families read one chapter a night. Students and families were also able to listen to videos of Holman Staff members reading chapters aloud. The day after a chapter was shared at home, kids answered daily trivia questions and won prizes. The Holman community also participated in Humphrey theme days, dressing up like Humphrey the Hamster and his friend Og the Frog. ■





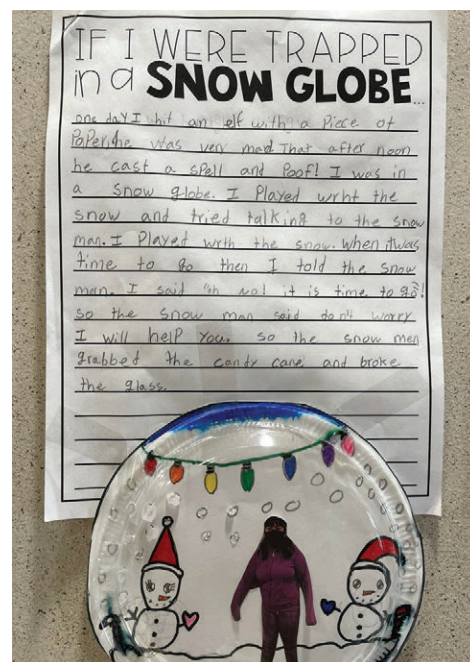


## Switlik Elementary School “Characters” Parade Around the Hallways During Read Across America Week!

**W**e were so excited to see all the wonderful costumes adorning our hallways during the final day of what was a week-long celebration of Read Across America at Switlik School. Organized and led by 5th grade teachers Ms. Liverani, Ms. Kudrick, Read Across America Week was such a fun-filled event with daily spirit days, story-paloozas, Drop Everything and Read, and of course our book character parade which reminded us of the places we can go when we grab either a book or electronic reading device, get into a safe and quiet place, and just enjoy the pleasures of reading, exploring, and imagination! ■

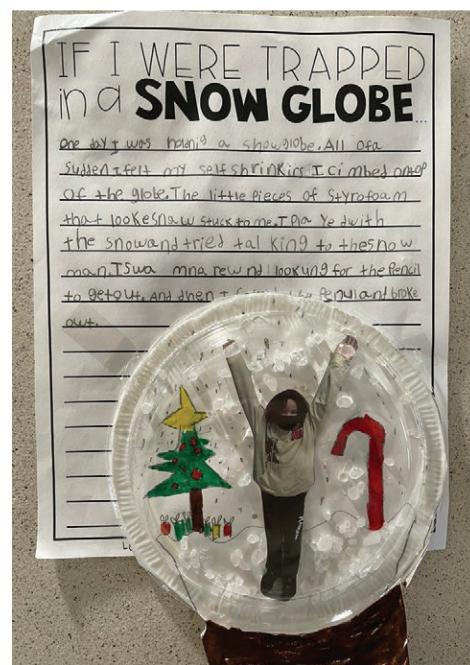
## Pre-School Students Construct Some Crazy & Adorable Little “Love Monsters” @ Elms Elementary!

**I**t's always a treat when walking through the classrooms at Elms Elementary. During a recent visit we couldn't help but notice some of our primary learners assembling 'Love Monsters' in Mrs. Zammit's pre-k class. Fine motor skills at work here as students separated and glued tissue paper to make 'em their own! ■

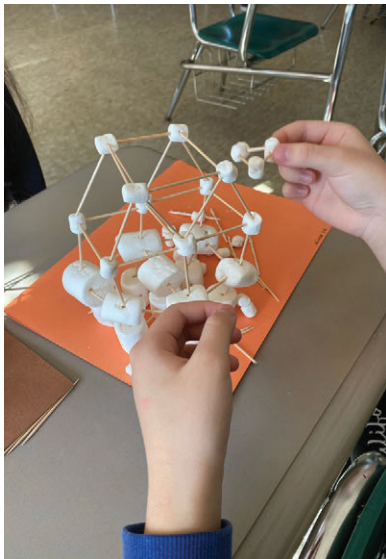


## Crawford Students Find a Way to Escape a Snow Globe!

**W**hat would you do if you were trapped in a snow globe? Ms. Susino-Vitale's students at Crawford Elementary have some ideas. When faced w/ a challenge, the solutions that are developed by some of our youngest minds truly fascinate and inspire to overcome any obstacle that they may encounter. ■

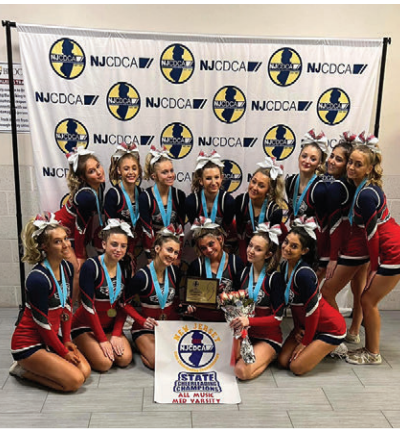






### McAuliffe Middle School Engineers Inspired by Earthquakes & Strive For Safer Structures!

Ms. Rose's students at McAuliffe Middle School had fun making marshmallow structures after reading the story, 'Earthquake.' Using their newly gained knowledge of architecture, engineering, earthquakes, gravity and natural forces, students were able to build strong, sturdy structures that would surely survive any earthquake with only minimal damage! ■



### Jackson Liberty Cheer Team Earns State Championship!

Congratulations to our Jackson Liberty Cheer Team for another amazing performance during their recent competition and especially as they earned a state championship. Their success is no small feat and it is an amazing accomplishment for all their hard work and dedication. These elite athletes train and practice so hard and are always challenging themselves to be their best all year long. Great job to all our participants and coaches as you make our entire community proud! ■

### Switlik 5th Graders Graduate as "Multiplication Masters" w/Honors!

Switlik School has so many bulletin boards that showcase student art, writing, projects, and photos. One of our most notable boards this year comes from the 5th grade classrooms of Ms. Padron and Ms. Lowry where a few of their students have already begun to "graduate" as multiplication masters by excelling with fast facts that have been studied all year. Once a student completes the program and earns their certificate, their photo in cap and gown is taken in front of a green screen by Mr. Autenrieth and each student gets to "digitally select" an educational facility of their choice to insert as their background. Everything from Harvard to the United States Armed Forces have been selected and serves as an inspiration for hard work paying off. Our goal is to see all of our students excel at their own pace and realize that all of their dreams can be accomplished through hard work and self motivation! ■





## Jackson Education Association

55 N. County Line Road

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Lisa Crate, *President*

Brian Morgan, *1st Vice President*

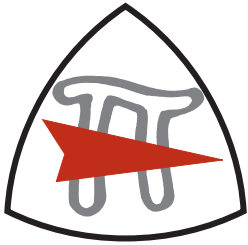
Joseph Lux, *2nd Vice President*

Marcus Villecco, *Treasurer*

Stephanie Healy, *Corresponding Secretary*

Elaine Holleran, *Recording Secretary*

Phone: (732) 367-4954



**Congratulations to Our Jackson School District Teachers & Education Service Professionals of the 2021-22 School Year! We are so proud of you all!**

