

# Striving for Excellence



October 2007 Vol 15, Issue 2

A Periodical of the Jackson Local Schools

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## Senior Citizens' Fall Fling

Mark your calendar for the Fall Fling which will be held Thursday, Nov. 8. This year's musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, will be followed by dinner in our new Student Commons at the high school for only \$9 per person. Although no ticket is needed for the play, dinner seating is limited to 200. Tickets are available at the high school through Wednesday, Oct. 31.



National Merit students, seated from left: Rachel Rutledge and Christian Thompson. Standing from left: Karishma Khullar, Nicole Kendel, Michael Adams, and Sean Dunlap.

## Teaching touches three generations

In 1962, Helen Tschantz, stood before a classroom of Jackson 7th graders and insisted they learn English.

A student in that classroom, Sharon Albrecht, absorbed enough of the learning to later stand before a classroom of her own Jackson students.

This year, Ms. Albrecht will insist that 10th grader Juli Barkas learn English. Juli happens to be Mrs. Tschantz's granddaughter.

"I like Ms. Albrecht's teaching style, and I feel as though I am indirectly learning from my grandmother," Juli said.

When the now 83-year-old Mrs. Tschantz visited Ms. Albrecht's classroom, the two reminisced and chuckled about Mrs. Tschantz's rules. There was no talking allowed in her classroom, no gum-chewing, and no misuse of the English language.

"You may have been a strict disciplinarian, but I appreciate what you did for me. You gave me a solid foundation of grammar that has helped me throughout my career and my life," Ms. Albrecht said to the smiling Mrs Tschantz.

Collectively, the two teachers have touched the lives of more than 9,000 students. Mrs. Tschantz who also worked as the Sauder Jr. High School librarian, retired in 1982, after 30 years of service. Ms. Albrecht will retire at the end of this school year after 36 years of teaching. Juli will study hard and make both teachers proud.



Helen Tschantz, Sharon Albrecht, Juli Barkas

## National Merit honors go to six at JHS

Rachel Rutledge, a JHS senior, was named a National Merit Semi-Finalist. Semi-finalists are the highest scorers on the PSAT in each of the 50 states and represent less than 1% of each state's high school seniors. If Rachel is selected as a finalist, she will qualify for the National Merit Scholarship.

Christian Thompson was named a semi-finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program, an academic competition established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding Black American high school students. Black students may enter both the National Achievement Program and the National Merit Program by taking the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Chris took the PSAT as a junior and was designated a semi-finalist by achieving one of the highest scores in this region.

The following students were named Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program: Michael Adams, Sean Dunlap, Nicole Kendel, Karishma Khullar. These students placed among the top five percent of students who took the PSAT, and are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

## Spanish Club still sending Care Packages to soldiers

The Jackson High School Spanish Club continues to send Care Packages to Jackson troops serving our country. Students collect comfort items and non-perishable foods and mail them to our soldiers.

The club project, now in its fourth year of operation, has sent nearly 100 Care Packages.

If you have a loved one in the military service, our Spanish Club would like them to know we care. Just call the club advisor, Carol Harmon, at 330-837-3501 and provide her with an address.

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## POLAR BEAR PRIDE

Polar Bear Pride is published six times each year under the auspices of the Jackson Local Board of Education with advertising support from area businesses. It is printed and mailed to Jackson homes and businesses at no cost to the school district. Polar Bear Pride is not a public forum. Its purpose is to keep the community informed of life and learning in the Jackson Local Schools.

## YOUR INPUT IS WELCOMED

Correspondence may be sent to:

**Paula Blangger**  
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## Jackson Local excited about early success and future possibilities

The 2007-08 school year is off to an very good start. We have many exciting successes to report already.

### Successful Fall Athletic Season

We know that learning is not all books and tests. Athletics can add tremendous enrichment to a student's school experience. We are glad to see the variety of successes and improvements in each of our fall teams. For details, see page 15 of this issue.

### Busing

We are through our first trial of transporting middle school and high school students together, and although there were a few glitches, I am glad to say that I think this program will save the district a significant amount of money while still serving students. Our transportation supervisor Homer Travis, and assistant superintendent Bob Glassburn made visits to each location where parents requested a second look, and all problems were remedied. I even found myself riding a bus with the students to monitor the safety of the program.

### Volunteer Chinese Teacher

We welcome our volunteer Chinese teacher, Mr. Rui Li who has said, "American education is the best in the world." We are glad he is adding value to our educational program. He teaches classes at the middle school and high school. We are discussing ways for him to present a cultural lesson to elementary students as well. The State Department of Education is considering the development of a K-4 Chinese language program

because the eventual goal is to have all Ohio students learn this language.

### New Teachers

With the retirement of so many seasoned teachers, we find ourselves welcoming and mentoring many new, young teachers. This program, too, is designed to serve our students while eventually saving the district an estimated \$3.3 million.

### High School Musical and Senior Citizens

Our drama students are working hard on the upcoming musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. The director, Mr. Fred Locker, said the opening number alone will bring the house down. The play will open Nov. 9. We will again welcome Jackson senior citizens to view the dress rehearsal free of charge. We are glad for their attendance because it gives our students a chance to practice in front of a group of caring individuals. After the dress rehearsal, many of our seniors attend a dinner prepared by our culinary students. Although we now have to charge for the dinner, our senior citizens still come out to help us again provide a real-world experience for student chefs.

### Bear's Den Opens

Speaking of student chefs, we are pleased to announce that the Bear's Den Restaurant will open to the public Nov. 6. Lunch is prepared and served by our high school students from 11:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday. Again, the public's participation creates real-world learning opportunities for our students.

### Sixth Grade Camp

The camp was slated to be cut from the program, but two ambitious fundraisers (Jean Furbay and Missy Sirpilla) worked closely with middle school principal Chris DiLoretto and the middle school parent group (PATT) to lead a host of fundraising activities. Several residents made generous, anonymous donations to ensure the program's viability, and parents of 6th graders paid an increased participation fee to keep the beloved tradition intact at no additional cost to taxpayers.

### Elementary Computers

The eight-year-old elementary school computers will be replaced through a very low-interest lease agreement and a year-end sale that saved the district \$200 per unit.

### College Credit at JHS

We are meeting with Kent State in the hopes of offering our students several dual-credit classes. In other words, several college content classes may soon be taught in our high school, by our teachers, and students who take them would receive college credit while also satisfying their high school requirements.

Cheryl Haschak



Jackson Local Superintendent



**Superintendent Cheryl Haschak**



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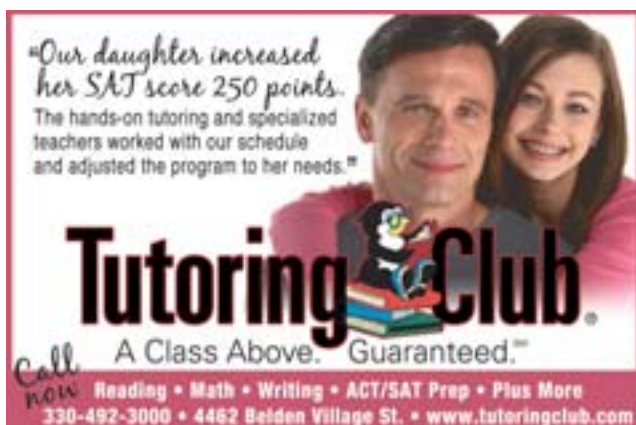
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# Student Spotlight

## Jackson students perform in All-State Honors Choir

Last summer, Jackson students Jenna Calderone, Elyse Dye, Alexis Hrabovsky, Maggie Steadham, and Devin Ta participated in the OCDA 2007 All State Children's Honor Choir, comprised of 128 of Ohio's most talented singers.

To prepare for the event, students participated in two Saturday morning rehearsals at Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, then met at Otterbein College on June 18 to spend 12 hours working with renown conductor, educator, and children's choir clinician Dr. Angela Broeker. Dr. Broeker is Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota.



Young singers, Jenna Calderone, Elyse Dye, Alexis Hrabovsky, Devin Ta, and Maggie Steadham.

The OCDA All State Children's Honor Choir then performed at the Ohio Choral Director's Association (OCDA) Summer Conference 2007 on June 20, at Otterbein College in Westerville, OH

The program included the following pieces, which the students performed from memory:

*I Will Sing New Songs of Gladness* from Biblical Songs, Op. 99 #5 by Antonin Dvorak

*Seagull, Seagull*, arr. by Susan Brumfield

*Aweigh Santy Ano*, arr. by Cyndee B. Giebler

*Allunde, Alluia* (Swahili Lullaby/Prayer) arr. by Margaret Campbelle-Holman

*I Bought Me A Cat* from Old American Songs, Set I by Aaron Copland

*Antonio* by Jay Broeker (commissioned for the OCDA All State Children's Honor Choir of the 2007 OCDA Summer Conference)

The concert was presented in Otterbein's Cowan Hall and also featured the Cincinnati Children's Choir under the direction of Robyn Lana.

## Creative student wins Hall of Fame art contest

Vinnie Yacono, a 4th grader at Lake Cable, placed 2nd in the Hall of Fame Art Contest. Students were instructed to put their artistic talents into a drawing that would be placed in area hotel rooms to welcome out-of-town visitors to Stark County during the 2007 Hall of Fame Festival.

For his efforts, Vinnie received a replica Class of 2007 autographed football in a collector's case, four tickets to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and an assortment of Hall of Fame gift items for his entire class.

Approximately 2,500 fourth and fifth graders from Stark County participated in the contest, which is a part of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Educational Outreach.



Vinnie Yacono

## Fiddler places third twice

JHS sophomore Ethan Ash placed 3rd in the Ohio State Oldtime Fiddlers' Championship held at Stuart's Opera House in Nelsonville, Ohio last August. This is the second time Ethan has placed third in the contest, having competed in the 2006 event as well. Contestants are required to play played a hoedown, waltz, and a tune of choice. Ethan is a student in the Jackson School for the Arts.



**EDITOR'S NOTE** In the back-to-school issue of Polar Bear Pride, students were asked what they would do if there were no limits. A concerned community friend wrote to say she noticed that very few kids mentioned helping others. I will take responsibility for the light-hearted tone of students' responses, as I asked them to give their answers in a spirit of creativity and fun, but failed to communicate this intention clearly to readers of PBP. As many readers know, our students and their families have a strong reputation for generosity. JHS is one of the few high schools with a Habitat for Humanity Club, and the members are working to partially finance and build their 10th consecutive home. When the tornado struck, our football team helped with the clean-up while other students delivered flowers to each victim's home. Students have bought cows for families in Africa, raised funds to dig a clean water well in a third-world country, and stocked the toy room at a local homeless shelter. They have sent thousands of shoes to the needy worldwide, held a prom for local senior citizens, delivered food to migrant workers in Hartville, stocked school libraries in New Orleans after the flood, sent care packages to our soldiers in Iraq, and anonymously helped fellow students in need. One student single-handedly raised \$50,000 to build a school in Vietnam.

I am grateful to the citizen who took the time to inquire, giving me this opportunity to correct the impression. Paula Blangger, Polar Bear Pride editor.

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## Meet Jackson's dedicated cafeteria staff

### Lunch program improves

A year ago, the Jackson lunch program showed a deficit. Today, the program has narrowed the gap considerably, due to the careful analysis and a new system of operation administered by food service supervisor Marsha Escola who explained her five-point plan for turning the tables, so-to-speak, on the cafeteria situation.

**1. Competition** - "We used to work with only one food service company. Now we use a variety of food service companies," Mrs. Escola said, explaining that competition has brought the prices down.

**2. Government commodities** - "These are very good quality products that are much less expensive to purchase," she said. "They are staple foods - rice, flour, oil, canned fruits, cheese, chicken, and such."

**3. Cutting staff hours** - As the district loses people through attrition, they are not being replaced. "We have a wonderful staff who work very hard to get it done with the time and personnel allotted," Mrs. Escola said.

**4. New high school facility** - "We can serve a greater number of kids faster than ever before, and they have more choices than ever before,

so they are eating in the cafeteria more than ever before," Mrs. Escola said. Students move through four separate food lines (pizza/pasta line, salad/deli line, grilled sandwich line, and traditional school lunch line). Most areas

**"Students get a very nutritious meal because we prepare in our school kitchens what we'd serve to our own families"**

*Marsha Escola  
Food Service Supervisor*

are self-serve, creating less waiting time and more time for students to relax and eat. The average time it takes a students to get from tray to table is currently five-six minutes. The goal is to get students through the lines in four minutes. In the old cafeteria, it took up to 12 minutes.

**5. Received a grant** - "The \$6,000 grant allowed me to purchase new, badly needed milk coolers. These are stand-up, user friendly, self serve coolers that show the product, and I'm selling more milk," Mrs. Escola said.

**2,700 students bought lunch in the cafeterias during the first few days of school.**

"I may have installed these new things, but our tremendous staff make them work," she concluded.



Food service secretary Pam Kakos (left) and food service supervisor Marsha Escola.

**Food preparation begins as early as 6:00 a.m. for lunch to be served at 10:50.**

**Clean-up takes as little as 30 minutes.**



Amherst: Sharon Dodd, Teresa Smith, Brenda Cole (head cook), and Billie King.



Lake Cable: Jim Frey, Maureen Kennen, Sue Freshly (head cook), and Janet Stalder.

**"The cafeteria ladies make our food with tender-loving care and give you a nice big serving."**

*Tyler Carington, student*

**"I could eat our cafeteria food all day long."**

*Manoja Nauduri, student*



Sauder: Jane Mellie, Bev Harold, Patty Guerrieri (head cook), and Louise Tallman.

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## Meet Jackson's dedicated cafeteria staff

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**High School:** Head cook Lori Menster pictured inside the freezer.

**High School:** Charlott Carpenter, Pamela Dingler, Cindy Endres, Sandra Fager, Michelle Haas, Jennifer Hoffner, Donna Jacobson, Tiffany Lorenz, Lavonne Porrini, Diane Rhines, and Dina Vliet.

**Strausser:** Pictured below are Sheila Rohr (head cook), Marlene Haddox, and Nancy Hope. Not pictured is Renee Overholt.



*"I like the cafeteria ladies because they say hi to everyone, everyday."*

*Alexis Juergensen, Student*



**Middle School:** Carol Lane (head cook), Janet Barkas, Charlotte Carpenter, Debra Frey, Marcia Killian, Holly Schworm, and Pamela White. Not pictured are Linda McKinnon and Sandra Yakubisin.

## Sixth grade camp saved by caring community



Cassie Pantelas kayaks on Leesville Lake at Camp Muskingum.

For the past 19 years, Jackson Middle School 6th graders have attended Camp Muskingum, an outdoor education camp in Carrollton. It is a way to blend students from our four elementary schools into one cohesive group of middle schoolers.



Ben Reynolds and Amanda Foxx with a turtle in the nature center.

Continued levy failures threatened the viability of this year's program until parents Jean Furbay and Missy Sirpilla set their minds to working with superintendent Haschak, middle school principal Chris DiLoretto, and the PATT (JMMS parent support group) on a solution to send 6th graders to camp at **no additional cost to taxpayers**.

This year's parents of 6th graders paid an increased camp fee. Mr. and Mrs. Doug Pugh donated 10% of their Chick-fil-A profits (collected over three hours) to the cause. Additional fundraising and several, large anonymous donations saved Camp Muskingum this year.

"Our long-term goal is to continue fundraising so we will be a year ahead financially for future campers," said JMMS principal Chris DiLoretto.

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Because we at Jackson Local believe that excellence includes everyone, we are assembling our third group of community leaders to aid us in important decision-making and communication efforts.

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At each meeting, you will spend time with our staff and superintendent, focusing on district operations, from buses to balance sheets. As a graduate of our Key Communicators program, you will be among Jackson's most informed citizens and most important communicators of accurate school-related information.

Superintendent Haschak will consult with you periodically via email for your input on various topics, and will want to hear community concerns and ideas from you.

The following individuals have helped us organize and execute the program. We are grateful for their valuable input, and the time they dedicated to truly understanding our struggles and joys.

Mary Aaby	Denny Goodwill	Ted Rath
Renee Arnold Trishla	Deepa Goyal	Rick Rodak
Bhargava Stan Bunting	Todd Hawke	Linda Schmidt
Dana Burgardt	Rita Haines	Rebecca Scott
Jim Camp	Michelle Henry	Missy Sirpilla
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Meeting dates are: Jan. 16, Feb. 20, Mar. 19, Apr. 16, and May 21 – 7:30-9:00 a.m. at various school locations.

## Amherst kids have community spirit

Amherst students showed support for the Cleveland Indians during their run for the pennant by wearing team colors.

Most every Friday, the school is a sea of purple in support of the Polar Bears.

When superintendent Haschak declared Thursday, Sept. 27 POLAR PINK DAY to support the Varsity Volleyball Team's effort to raise funds for breast cancer research, Amherst students responded by wearing pink and sending notes of encouragement to the team. School librarian Laura Marcinak created a paper volleyball pin for students to wear and wrote a poem for our students to enjoy.

The Jackson Schools have too many teachers and administrators who are struggling with breast cancer. The district also remembers Stephanie Beoglos Bartuseck, Lake Cable principal who lost her fight with the disease on August 18, 2004.



Showing their spirit for the Cleveland Indians and the Jackson Polar Bears are: Jarrett Collier, Jacob Gardner, Chad Matthus, and Baylee Haas.



By Laura Marcinak, Amherst Librarian

Thursday's the day to stop and think,  
Why is it that we're wearing pink.  
To support our girls in volleyball,  
And help fight cancer- once and for all.

To show the lady bears our pride,  
Tape or pin the ball inside.  
Onto your dress or shirt or top,  
Support like this just cannot stop.

Pink is the new red- it's really true,  
So girls and guys it's up to you.  
Show your pride - dress real hip,  
And cheer our ladies to a championship.

Go bears! Beat Lake! Stop Cancer!



A few of Amherst's Polar Pink Ladies are: Kendra Moore, Noell Ferguson, Meghan Sommers, Courtney Wargo, Allison Snyder, and Verna Zhu.

## Put me on the E-List

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## Jackson welcomes 2nd SRO to staff

Jackson students began the school year with two full-time police officers on staff. James J. Lenemier, a 20-year officer begins his 2nd year serving the Jackson Local schools, and Dave Trubisky, a 16-year officer, begins his first year at Jackson.



Jackson Local's school resource officers Dave Trubisky (left) and James J. Lenemier.

Both salaries are paid by the Jackson Police Department as a service to the entire community.

"The Jackson Police Department is trying to be proactive with juveniles, so hopefully, what we do in school cuts down on problems outside of school," said officer Lenemier.

School Resource Officers (SROs) are fully uniformed and gun-carrying officers whose primary purpose is to "keep the peace" so that students can learn and teachers can teach. They also provide individual and classroom guidance on law-related issues and act as a link to support services outside school.

*School Resource Officers are paid by the Jackson Police Department.*

Although officer Lenemier serves JHS primarily, and officer Trubisky serves JMMS they consider the entire district their responsibility.

They welcome calls from parents about social or behavioral problems their children are having. "We can pay attention to who their child is spending time with, their interactions in the hallways. We can confirm or deny the parent's fears and intervene before a child begins making bad decisions," officer Lenemier said.

*Alumni Association Web site  
jacksonpolarbearsalumni.org*



## *New faces will take our students to interesting places*

Less experience means more savings for Jackson Local.

Because experts forecast a \$9.4 million deficit by the year 2009, the Board of Education has shaved a bit more off the budget by allowing 58 certified staff members to take an early retirement incentive package by the end of this school year.

The move is expected to save our district an estimated \$3.3 million by replacing retiring staff members with teachers who have bachelor's degrees and three or less years of experience.



## *Cable kids collect coins for cancer*

Lake Cable students partnered with Chili's Restaurant to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Jim Hunt, a Lake Cable parent and manager of the Belden Village Chili's, awarded prizes to classrooms that collected the most spare change. The total school donation of \$2,263 had officials shaking their heads in amazement. Principal Kathy Clark was more pleased than amazed. She knows that her students and their families are generous and kind. She also knows that when healthy children are allowed to help sick children, each one wins. Pictured are class representatives: Elise Cornelius, Mia DiLoreto, Ryan Smith, Tyler Palmer, Katherine Sanders, Colleen Self, and Daija Rodi.

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## School Calendar

- Oct.** 25 Th. Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-5) – 4:00-8:00PM  
26 Fri. Teacher In-service /PT Conference-No School (K-5)
- Nov.** 1 Th. End 1st Nine Weeks  
2 Fri. Teacher In-service – No School (K-12)  
21 Wed. Waiver Exchange Day – No School (K-12)  
22 Th. Thanksgiving Recess – No School (K-12)  
23 Fri. Thanksgiving Recess – No School (K-12)  
26 Mon. Exchange Day for P/T Conferences – No School (K-12)
- Dec.** 24 Mon. Winter Recess Begins – No School (K-12)
- Jan.** 3 Th. Classes Resume (K-12)  
17 Th. End 2nd Nine Weeks  
18 Fri. Teacher In-service – No School (K-12)  
21 Mon. Martin Luther King Day – No School (K-12)
- Feb.** 7 Th. Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-12) – 4:30-7:30 PM  
13 Wed. Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-12) – 4:30-7:30 PM  
18 Mon. President's Day – No School (K-12)
- Mar.** 20 Th. End 3rd Nine Weeks  
21 Fri. No School (K-12)  
24 Mon. Spring Recess Begins  
31 Mon. Exchange Day P/T Conferences – No School (K-12)
- April** 1 Tue. Classes Resume  
14 Mon. Teacher In-service – No School (K-12)
- May** 26 Mon. Memorial Day – No School (K-12)
- June** 5 Th. Last Student Day

## Strausser parents build outdoor learning pavilion at no cost to school

The Strausser parent-teacher group (PTG) designed and built an outdoor learning pavilion at no cost to the school through the auction of student art and other donated items that raised most of the \$20,000 needed to complete the project.

At the start of this school year, approximately 500 students, parents, staff members, community friends and neighbors gathered to open the pavilion. The picnic supper and festive atmosphere were enhanced by a variety of old-fashioned games and activities for families. The games and crafts were donated by Andy's Parties.

Strausser principal, Anna Minor, expressed her gratitude to the crowd and offered special thanks to PTG moms Julie Mertes, Dee Merrill, Karen Dowling, Sunita Paul, Julie Thomas, and Cynthia Jacobs who led the fundraising and building project.

"This pavilion gives children another place to learn, and it's a wonderful place that can also be enjoyed by members of our Jackson community," Mrs. Minor said.

*"This pavilion gives children another place to learn, and it's a wonderful place that can also be enjoyed by members of our Jackson community."*

*—Anna Minor, Strausser Principal*

Also contributing to the project were Skylar Construction, Schaub Electric, Stark Truss, and Parson's Concrete who took no payment for the concrete materials or service provided.

Mrs. Minor hopes to see students enjoying science, reading, and math classes inside the pavilion. It is rumored that bird houses and a butterfly garden may be added to the pavilion in the future. There has also been some Eagle Scout interest in building raised planting beds to enhance the pavilion's learning potential.

"It looks awesome," said student Alex Ralich. "I hope the animal guy brings his animals here for us."

"I hope I get to learn math in it," said Christina Tucker. "It's my favorite subject."



A picnic supper ribbon-cutting party marked the opening of the pavilion. About 500 parents, students, community friends, staff, and neighbors gathered for the event.



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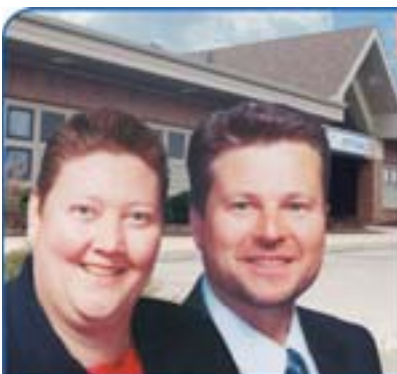
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Funding for this project was provided by U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Grant#98-00000-0000-0000-0000-0000-0000-0000-0000-0000-0000-0000





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## no cost to the Board of Education

the Board of Education. The fundraising began last February with an event. and even family pets attended a ribbon cutting that officially opened the pavilion. Games (sack races, water balloon contest, relay games) and craft



Opening of Strausser Elementary's new, outdoor learning pavilion. About 100 people, including children and even a Jackson polar bear enjoyed an evening of festivities.

## Event Calendar

### NOW Crafters apply for JMMS Annual Spring Craft Show

Applications are now being accepted for the March 8, 2007 Jackson Middle School craft show sponsored by PATT. For an application, go to the Jackson Local Web site, select the middle school, then select craft show from the menu. Be sure to send both pages of the application, pictures, and a check. Applications will be juried during the first week in February, and acceptance/denial letters will follow. We are interested in a diversity of crafts—traditional, new and unique.

### Events at Jackson HS Center for Performing Arts

Thur.	Oct 25	<b>National Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony</b>	7 p.m.
Fri.	Nov 9	<b>High School Musical Production of Thoroughly Modern Millie</b>	8 p.m.
Sat.	Nov 10	<b>High School Musical Production of Thoroughly Modern Millie</b>	8 p.m.
Sun.	Nov 11	<b>High School Musical Production of Thoroughly Modern Millie</b>	2 p.m.
Wed.	Nov 14	<b>Sauder/Strausser Elementary Schools Harvest Concert</b>	7 p.m.
Thur.	Nov 15	<b>Amherst Elementary School Harvest Concert</b>	7 p.m.
Thur.	Nov 29	<b>Jazz Bands Holiday Concert</b>	7 p.m.
Mon.	Dec 3	<b>8th Grade Band Concert</b>	7 p.m.
Tue.	Dec 4	<b>7th Grade Band Concert</b>	7 p.m.
Wed.	Dec 5	<b>Amherst Elementary School 2nd Grade Musical</b>	7 p.m.
Thur.	Dec 6	<b>8th Grade Choir Concert</b>	7 p.m.
Sun.	Dec 9	<b>High School Bands Holiday Concert</b>	3 p.m.
Mon.	Dec 10	<b>Sauder Elementary School 2nd Grade Musical</b>	7 p.m.
Wed.	Dec 12	<b>7th Grade Choir Concert</b>	7 p.m.
Thur.	Dec 13	<b>Lake Cable Elementary School 4th &amp; 5th Grade Concert</b>	7 p.m.
Sat.	Dec 15	<b>Brass Band of the Western Reserve Holiday Concert</b>	7:30 p.m.
Sun.	Dec 16	<b>High School Choirs Holiday Concert</b>	3 p.m.
Mon.	Dec 17	<b>5th Grade Band Concert</b>	6.30 p.m.
Mon.	Dec 17	<b>6th Grade Band Concert</b>	7.30 p.m.
Tue.	Dec 18	<b>6th Grade Choir Concert</b>	7 p.m.

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## Vocational effort brings top recycling award

Linda Morkel, recycling coordinator for the Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Joint Solid Waste Management District, contacted Jacque Cameron's JHS class to invite them to the second annual recycling awards banquet at Skyland Pines Country Club. The class would receive a top award for its dedication to recycling and solid waste reduction. Last school year, the team recycled 22.54 tons of paper. In addition to the award, the class earned a check for \$281.00 (\$12.00 a ton), which they plan to spend at holiday time when they adopt a needy family. Of all the schools that recycle, this small group of volunteers recycled the largest amount.

How did they do it? They placed plastic collection bins in 100 classroom and offices to gather discarded homework papers, magazines, newspapers, cardboard, and catalogs. The team, otherwise known as Cameron's Classy Collectors, emptied the small bins three times each week into the six-cubic foot dumpster that sits in the school parking lot. The dumpster is picked up regularly by members of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission and delivered to the recycling station.

"It's hard work, and I get sweaty," said the industrious Jimmy Lambos.

This year's collection team pictured at left include: Noor Aljaberi, Jimmy Lambos, Jeremy Johnson, and Amelia Kaufman. Not pictured is Ryan Brown who graduated last year.

Alumni Association Web site  
[jacksonpolarbearsalumni.org](http://jacksonpolarbearsalumni.org)

## Join the JHS Alumni Association

<b>J. H. S. A. A. Membership</b>  <b>Jackson High School Alumni Association</b> Membership Form <i>"Once a Bear, Always a Bear!"</i>	
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<b>Please make checks payable and mail to:</b> <b>JHS Alumni Association</b> Post Office Box 35323 • Canton, OH 44735-6323	
Retain this portion for your records	



## Class of 57 celebrates 50 years

The reunion began with a tailgate party at Meyers Lake before the crowd headed to Fife Stadium to watch the Polar Bears in action. Saturday started with choices—either golfing at Wilkshire, or a tour of Jackson Center (one-room) School and the new high school addition. "Everyone was impressed with the high school," said class member Eleanor Scott. The group enjoyed a picnic lunch catered by Corky's in the south park pavilion and finally danced the night away at Shady Hollow Country Club. Sunday breakfast at the Holiday Inn rounded out the weekend. There are 90 living members of the original class of 102 students. Of them, 44 returned to celebrate.



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# Generous Jackson community welcomes Chinese teacher

Mr. Rui Lee, age 29, came to Jackson Local from China, where he was a professional ping pong player, father of a five-month-old baby boy, and an English teacher at Harbin University. He will spend one year teaching Chinese in the Jackson Local Schools, at a very small cost to the Board of Education because his travel expenses and salary are paid by the Chinese government. Jackson Local is required to provide housing, transportation and basic health insurance.

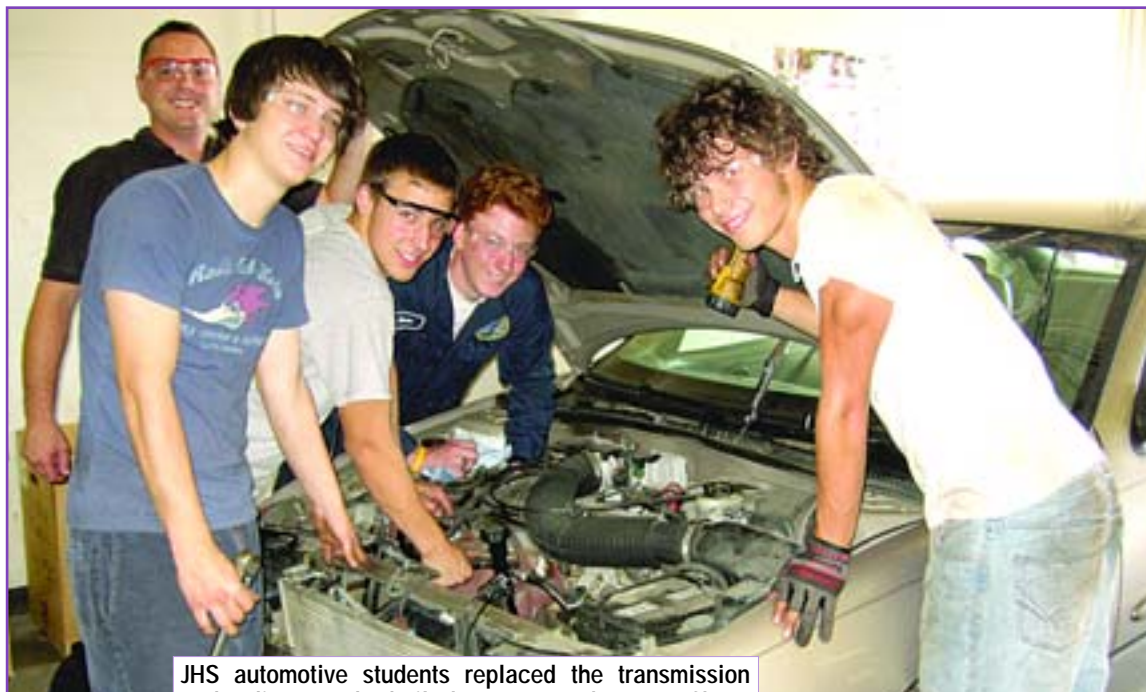
After an initial stay with the family of our curriculum director, Linda Salom, the Scott Johnson family graciously invited Mr. Li to live, rent-free, in their guest house.

Our automotive technology students provided basic transportation by making a donated 1996 Chevy Cavalier roadworthy. Because Mr. Li had no need for a car in China, he had to learn to drive in the United States. Jeff Bushman of Massillon Driving School donated the lessons. But Mr. Li could not take the driving lessons until he passed a vision screening test at the DMV. To his surprise, he could not pass the test, even with his glasses on. That's when Dr. Ted Rath of Optometry Associates donated a complete eye exam and much stronger glasses.

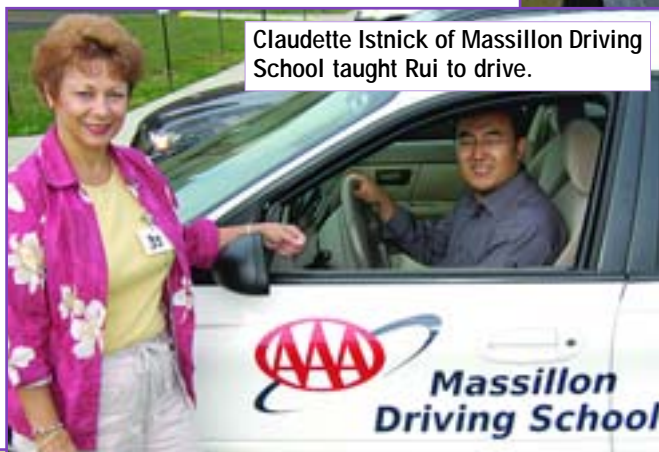
Next, the Rotary Club of Jackson Township adopted Mr. Li by donating \$100 per month to the Jackson schools for unexpected expenses that may be encountered in this pilot program.

Some of that donation was used to purchase Mr. Li's teaching materials.

After his teaching obligations at JHS and JMMS are met, Mr. Li travels to the Stark County Educational Service Center to teach a class for interested students countywide.



JHS automotive students replaced the transmission and radiator, and rebuilt the motor on the 1996 Chevy Cavalier donated by the Bob Preece family. Pictured are: Instructor Jay Vrabec, and students Ian Miller, Tim Snauffer, Steve Smith, and Owen Walsky.



Claudette Istnick of Massillon Driving School taught Rui to drive.



The Johnson family with their Chinese guest. Kim and Scott stand behind their sons Alec, Colin, and Spencer who are seated with Rui.



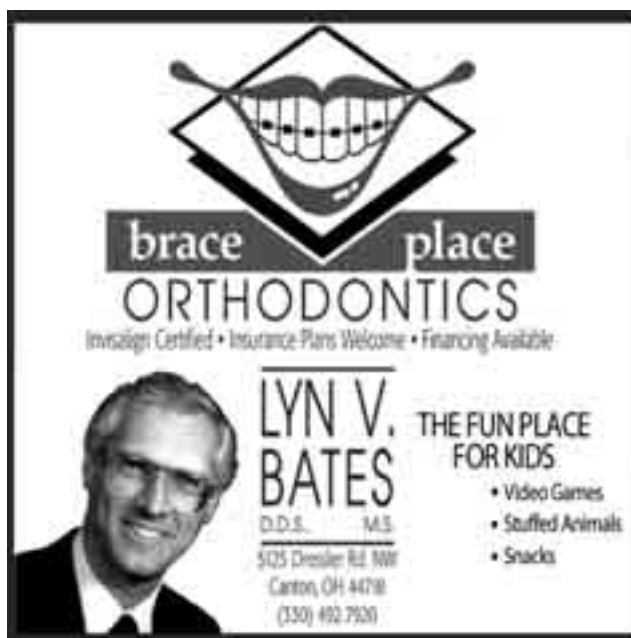
Dr. Rath tells Riu and Linda Salom that the new glasses will take some getting used to, and that he should wear them continuously for three days.

## On the Banner

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# District expects to save dollars on new busing practices

## How the district plans to save busing dollars

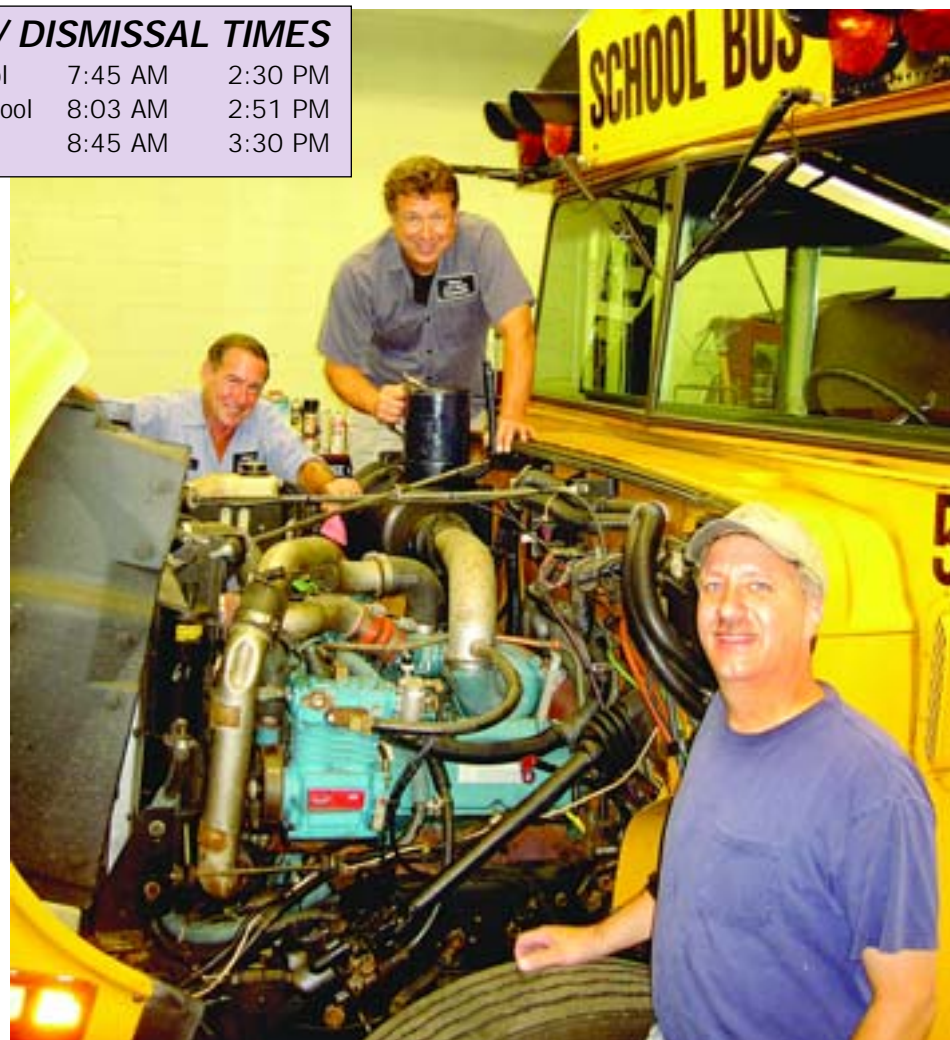
Last school year, Jackson buses traveled over a million miles (922,000) transporting children to and from school and taking them on athletic and educational field trips. This school year, we expect the mileage to drop to approximately 677,000 and save the district approximately \$300,000.

Several actions were taken to achieve this projection. "We used to make three trips through the township—one run to pick up high school students, a second run to pick up middle school students, and a third to pick up elementary students," said transportation supervisor Homer Travis. "Picking up the high school and middle school in the same run should save the district about 200,000 miles.

This action also saved the district 75 driver hours daily, but cost some drivers a salary loss of up to \$800 per month.

## START / DISMISSAL TIMES

High School	7:45 AM	2:30 PM
Middle School	8:03 AM	2:51 PM
Elementary	8:45 AM	3:30 PM



The district employs three mechanics to keep the fleet rolling. They are John Seigmund (center) who has been with the district for 31 years, Mike Miller (left) who has been aboard for 10 years, and Scott Halliett who has been with us for five years. "We try to catch the problems before the bus breaks down," John said. "The drivers are our eyes and ears. They tell us when they hear or see something that seems wrong, and we try to catch it before it turns into a breakdown." The fleet is in very good order, with all buses passing inspection earlier this year.

## Did you know...

Jackson is required by state law to deliver students to their non-public schools. We deliver 692 students to 20 area schools outside the Jackson Local Public School System.

## Band and athletic mileage

Last year, the Purple Army traveled 8,688 miles by Jackson Local buses. Athletics added an additional 25,394 miles to the total.

# BECOME A BUS DRIVER

We have a severe shortage of bus drivers.

If you are interested in becoming a driver, please pick up an application at the Administration Office, 7984 Fulton Drive, Massillon, OH 44646.

Drivers earn \$15.46 per hour and work 3 to 4 hours per day.

The job requires attendance at a week-long class offered by the state. You must also be fingerprinted, have a background check, a TB test, a physical, a drug test, training at the Jackson Local bus garage, and pass the Commercial Driver's License Test.

Call Lisa Irwin at 330-8042 if you have questions.



## Frequently asked busing questions

**I cannot see my child's bus stop from my house. Are there state laws for bus stop location?**

No law requires a parent to see the bus stop from home. Students in Ohio may be assigned to a bus stop up to one-half mile from their home. We encourage parents to accompany their child to the bus stop whenever possible.

This teaches the child safe habits of walking to and from the bus stop and may give parents peace of mind. Bus stop locations are determined by each district's Transportation Supervisor and approved by the School Board.

**Are sidewalks required for my child to get to the bus stop?**

Many students walk alongside roadways to reach their bus stop, and in some instances no sidewalks exist.

**Can my child wait inside my house until the bus arrives?**

Ohio law requires children to be waiting at the bus stop prior to its arrival. Bus drivers count the students at the bus stop before they load and as they get on the bus to ensure all children are safely aboard. Waiting at the bus stop before the bus arrives further ensures that no one chases after the bus. Many districts instruct their drivers not to stop at locations where no students are waiting.

**Are kindergarten students permitted to cross the street to board the bus?**

Students are permitted to cross the street to board the bus. Students will not be permitted to cross four lane streets and certain streets that the



Homer Travis  
Transportation Supervisor

Transportation Department deems unsafe.

**When should I send my child out to the bus stop?**

Your child should be OUTSIDE at the bus stop TEN (10) minutes prior to the estimated arrival time. Be dressed appropriately for weather conditions, and allow for bus delays (traffic, mechanical breakdowns).

**Will my child's pick-up and drop-off be at our house?**

Students are assigned to the closest group stop (most allotment areas are group stops) in the morning and afternoon. We will drop-off or pick-up your child as close to your home as permitted by the area in which you reside.

**What happens if you drop off my child at the assigned time and place and I am not home?**

Our responsibility for the safety of your child ends when we drop the child off at the designated stop.

**Are there items my child is not permitted to have on the bus?**

Children are not permitted to eat, drink or chew gum on the bus (possible choking issue). Also, no skateboards on the bus. Any school projects or large items must be able to be held on the child's lap. The aisles of the bus must remain clear. We ask that if your child has something large or bulky that you transport him/her to school.

**My child will be going to a local sitter or daycare. Will transportation be available?**

It is very difficult to provide this level of service. You should request any bus changes by filling out a Bus Change form at your student's school building. Request will be granted as bus capacity and availability permits.

**How will I know what bus my child will ride?**

You will receive a letter about a week before school starts notifying you of the child's bus number, stop location and an approximate time the bus will be at the stop. If you do not receive this information, please contact us at [res2jc@jackson.sparcc.org](mailto:res2jc@jackson.sparcc.org) or



Robin Shriver (left) and Lisa Irwin are former bus drivers who have taken their expertise into the office setting to schedule bus routes and assist with the daily duties of running the transportation department.

[Imi2jc@jackson.sparcc.org](mailto:Imi2jc@jackson.sparcc.org). Please do not call the bus garage requesting a stop change. Put all requests in writing either by e-mailing the above addresses or by mailing a letter to: Jackson Local School District, 7984 Fulton Rd NW, Massillon, Ohio 44646 Attn: Bus Garage.

**Are there seat belts on the bus?**

For maximum safety the bus is compartmentalized. This means that the seats have high backs and are spaced appropriately so that each seat section forms a compartment.

We do our best to transport your child to and from school safely. We will greet your child in a positive manner daily. If your child will sit in his/her assigned seat facing forward while talking quietly, our goals can be achieved.

## Jackson Busing Facts and Figures

- Jackson Local owns 95 buses and 7 vans. Eighty of those buses are on the road daily.
- A 2007 bus costs \$59,000.
- One bus tire costs \$235.
- Diesel fuel costs \$2.17 per gallon.
- The district buys about \$100,000 worth of fuel every four months.
- The district is exempt from paying Federal excise tax on the fuel, but is still required to pay state tax.
- A bus gets 5-9 miles to the gallon.
- Last year, a Jackson bus was totaled in an accident (No fault of the bus driver, and no student or driver injuries). The district bought the

totaled bus for \$500. "There are probably \$5,000 worth of spare parts that we can use from it," Mr. Travis said.

- Most of our buses seat 65, except four lift buses which have been modified to lift our wheelchair-bound students.
- With good maintenance, buses can last. Jackson has buses as old as 1993. Most of the fleet is about 8-years-old.
- In the past, an average of six buses per year were purchased to replace aging buses. With recent cut-backs, we are running old buses longer. In August 06, only three replacement buses were bought. This year only one bus was replaced.
- It takes about 84 drivers (mostly part time) to get our kids to and from school.

## Four-step crossing instructions

1. "When you exit the bus, walk 10 feet or steps in front of the bus along the side of the road where I can see you and you can see my hand in the front window." Make eye contact.
2. "When I drop my hand, I want you to walk to the middle of the road, traffic edge of the bus, and stop there."
3. "YOU are to check traffic in both directions ON YOUR OWN! When you see that it is clear, cross to your place of safety (residential side)." Students must go to driver's designated area of safety.
4. "If I blow my horn, that means DANGER. Check traffic again. If you see no danger, look back at me for further instructions."

**Please allow your child's bus driver to cross your child.**



Jacks 'N' Jills teach incoming freshmen Jackson's Alma Mater. Cheerleaders teach the fight song, and mentors teach the freshman unity dance.

## Freshmen-only first day creates unity at JHS

For the third consecutive year, Jackson freshmen have started school one day earlier than the rest of the school population. There are no official classes that day; instead, freshmen spent their first day getting to know their principal, assistant principal, counselors, teachers, and 134 junior and senior mentors who take them through a series of ice-breaking activities designed to help freshmen feel welcome to high school.

Each student mentor is assigned 2-4 freshmen to look after all year. On the first day, mentors led their pods of freshmen to their lockers and helped them walk their schedules so that when school actually started the next day, they would be able to find every classroom without added stress.

Throughout the year, mentors will welcome freshmen at lunch tables, make sure they are fitting in socially, and check on their academic progress.

They may simply say hello or pass their freshmen a note in the hallway, send a birthday card, or invite them to a school event. The mentors actually keep a log of their contacts with freshmen, and assistant principal Monica Myers reviews these logs regularly to be sure the long-range goal of the program is being met.

"We want students to know each other on a personal level so we won't have any kids feeling left out," said Mrs. Myers.

Mentors spent part of the summer in training for Freshmen First Day. It's all about belonging. They

learn games and techniques for making another student fit in and feel connected.

Junior, Haley Cherniuk, designed a t-shirt that mentors wear throughout the school year. The shirt is a symbol of the fine character required to become a mentor.

### Mentors extend helping hand to elementary students

Last year, a Strausser parent asked if high school students could help our elementary students practice their Everyday Math skills. Because we place such confidence and pride in our mentors, they were invited to volunteer. Almost half of our already-busy mentors now travel after school to each of our elementaries where they work with the little ones on math and reading.

## Ha, Ha! Your summer is over, but ours is not

Freshmen, middle schoolers, and grade school students start school one day before JHS sophomores, juniors and seniors. That gave sophomores Stephanie Hummel, Brooke Roman, and Michelle Hummel a mischievous idea. These three teasers dressed in beach clothes and seated themselves at the neighborhood bus stop to rub it in as the buses rolled by.



Pictured with Jackson's tallest elementary teacher are from left: Joseph Tawil, Sydni Doyl, Divya Patibandla, Nathan Sowko (who plans to grow as tall as Mr. Kish), Bailey Flood, and Fiona Szeles.

### Tallest Teacher

Jim Kish spent 14 years teaching JHS students until moving to Sauder Elementary to teach physical education this year. His 6'8" stature didn't seem so unusual at JHS, but our little ones find him to be somewhat of a giant.

"He's a really tall teacher - about eight feet, I think," said 2nd grader Sydni Doyl.

"No, eight-feet-two-inches," corrected Fiona Szeles.

"If there's a good book on a high shelf, it would be good to be so tall," said 5th grader Joseph Tawil.

"But it's good to be short, too, because my mom can lift me up," Sydni concluded.

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## Varsity Sports

### Girls' Tennis

The team is 20-0 and has won its 16th consecutive Federal League crown. The team also made the regional finals of the Ohio Coaches' Tournament by defeating Brecksville in the regional semi-finals 3-2. Loni Dickerhoof and Trisha Conlan won the doubles portion of the Canton Division I sectional tournament. The pair went on to claim the Division I district championship on Oct. 14 at Oberlin College. The tandem will advance to the state tournament at Ohio State.

### Volleyball

The team is 17-3 and tied for first place with Lake in the Federal League with a 12-1 league record. The Lady Bears still need to play McKinley and West Holmes to finish the season. The team was seeded 1st in the sectional tournament at Barberton.

### Football

After a slow start the football team won its last two Federal League games to improve its record to 3-5 overall and 2-3 in the Federal League.

### Girls' Golf

The duffers finished 2nd in the Federal League by placing 2nd in the regular season and the post-season Federal League Tournament. They also finished 2nd in the Sectional Golf Tournament at Turkeyfoot Golf Course to advance to the District Golf Tournament at the Legends' Golf Course, where they finished 9th.

### Boys' Cross Country

The team placed between 3rd and 10th in all of its races this year. The team finished 5th in the Stark County Meet. The boys are led by senior David Rafailedes, who finished 2nd at the Stark County meet and was a 2006 state-qualifier. David finished 1st in the Federal League meet (Oct. 13, with a time of 16:04.99.

### Girl's Cross Country

The team has either finished 1st or 2nd in every event this year. They finished in 2nd place at the Stark County Meet, ending the 9-year reign of the Bears winning the Stark County Meet. This is the longest run in the history of the county meet. Senior All-Ohioans Emily Pritt and Hallie Busta led their team to a 2nd place finish in the Federal League Meet (Oct 13). Emily finished 1st with a time of 18:36.27, and Hallie finished 2nd with a time of 19:02.05.

### Boys' Golf

The boys finished 2nd in the pre-season Federal League Tournament and finished the regular season with a perfect 7-0 league mark. (13-2 overall). The overall League Championship was decided Friday, Sept. 28 at the post-season league meet where the boys finished in 5th place and 2nd in the Federal League behind Lake. The team fought back in the Sectional Tournament by finishing 2nd, which qualified them for the District Tournament where they finished 3rd. This placing qualified the linkers to the state tournament at Ohio State.

### Girls' Soccer

The team is 12-1-1 overall and 6-0 in the Federal League. Our tie came against last year's State Final 4 squad, North Royalton, by the score of 1-1 and was defeated by defending state champion Walsh Jesuit (also the team that defeated us in the regional finals last year) by a score of 1-0. The girls defeated North Canton Hoover by the score of 4-0 to earn their 15th consecutive Federal League title. They are seeded 1st in tournament play.

### Boys' Soccer

The team is 11-1-3 overall and 6-0 in the Federal League. The 2-1 victory over arch-rival Hoover (Oct. 13) at home clinched the Federal League championship outright for the Bears. The team is also seeded 1st in the sectional tournament and will play the winner of Akron Ellet and Akron Garfield at



### Polar Pink Day brings 3-0 victory for Bears

On Thursday, September 27, the Lady Bear Volleyball Team took the floor with visiting league rivals, Lake Blue Streaks, to help knock out breast cancer in the first annual "Volley for the Cure" statewide campaign to raise funds for breast cancer research.

The Lady Bears defeated Lake in three straight games this night in front of an estimated 1000 pink fans.

To support the event, superintendent Haschak declared Sept. 27 POLAR PINK DAY. Students and staff bought pink t-shirts to wear to school that day and to the match that evening.

All proceeds from the \$6 t-shirts sold at JHS and Lake High School went to the *Susan G. Komen for the Cure* fund. Students who wore pink to the game got into the match for \$1, and adults who wore the color got in for \$3. During lunch periods, cheerleaders at both high schools sold paper links at 10 cents each to create a long paper chain that was presented at the game. A variety of other activities and a repeat of the event (to be held later at Lake) is expected to bring the fundraising to more than \$4,000. Jackson won three straight in this regular season match at home, setting the Bears up for a possible Federal League Championship.



Athletic director Terry Peterson and the Jackson Polar Bear give the event a thumb's up.

### Senior Citizens get half price discount on athletic tickets

If you are age 65 or over, you can attend all regular season varsity contests (except football) for half price. Tickets cost \$3 with your photo I.D. Come on out and watch our kids play.



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# Jackson teachers turn triathlete

Three Jackson teachers, Susan Bowman, Fran Bartholomew, and Sherri Reynolds, were among the 300 triathletes who competed in the Akron Women's-Only Triathlon offered during the Akron International Sports Festival held at Portage Lakes State Park in September.

The women trained separately throughout the summer, then entered the race together.

In a triathlon, participants always swim, bike and run, in that order.

"I felt I could do each event individually but was curious to know if I could do all three, and in a hurry," said Mrs. Bowman who finished 53rd. Mrs. Bartholomew finished 162nd, and Mrs. Reynolds finished 144th.

The women agreed they felt "very proud and blessed to be able to finish the race," and plan to enter the competition again next year with the intention to improve her time. Parent volunteer, Danielle Royer, had expected to compete, but a minor biking accident one week before the race prevented her from doing so.



From left are Susan Bowman, classroom assistant at Sauder Elementary; Fran Bartholomew, retired physical education teacher; and Sherri Reynolds, Sauder teacher of students with multiple disabilities.

## Bear's Den opens Nov. 6

The Bear's Den, student-run restaurant, serves the public delicious lunches from 11:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday at Jackson High School.

The public's participation creates real-world learning opportunities for our students.

You can be proud of your district for still striving for excellence by making the following cuts and changes:

- Settling a teacher contract
- Having teachers and administrators pay a portion of their health premium
- Reducing an elementary assistant principal position to 1/2 time
- Eliminating 1 middle school assistant principal position
- Reducing a curriculum director's days from 211 to 120 days of service
- Eliminating a high school vocational director position
- Eliminating the adult education director position, that department's secretary, and staff
- Reducing teaching staff
- Reducing cafeteria staff, and getting the cafeteria budget into the black
- Reducing bus drivers
- Eliminating an assistant bus coordinator position
- Combining high school and middle school busing to reduce costs
- Reducing the budget for supplies in all buildings
- Implementing fees for academics and athletics (kindergarten through grade 12)
- Implementing an administrative wage freeze during the 06/07 school year

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Join the growing number of Jackson residents who access our wide range of highly interactive courses that are completed entirely over the Internet. All courses take approximately six weeks to complete. They include expert instructors, many of whom are nationally known authors. Our courses are affordable, fun, and conveniently completed from the comfort of your home. Some courses even offer graduate credit. Start by visiting the Web site below to choose from 222 course offerings in the following subject areas:

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## Board of Education Meetings

October 16, 2007	Sauder
November 27, 2007	Lake Cable
December 18, 2007	Amherst
January 8, 2008	Strausser
February 19, 2008	Middle School
March 18, 2008	High School
April 15, 2008	High School
May 20, 2008	High School

\* Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

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