

# Striving for Excellence



February 2008 Vol 15, Issue 4

A Periodical of the Jackson Local Schools

Circulation 21,000

## The public is invited to the Dedication of JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday, March 16  
2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Hall at the high school.  
Following the dedication, tours of the school will be offered.

See Superintendent's Message, page 3-4 for details.

### Senior Citizens, get ready for Spring Fling

Come help us celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Jackson Center for Performing Arts on April 3. The Jacks-N-Jills have prepared a salute to the 20 high school musicals that were performed on our stage. Dinner will follow the show, as usual. Tickets for dinner will go on sale at the high school March 17. Seating is limited to 200. For an e-mail reminder, email pblangger@neo.rr.com and say, "Put me on the Senior Citizen's List."

### Put me on the E-List

If you would like to receive periodic messages from your school district, such as notes from the superintendent, messages from the Board of Education, and electronic copies of Polar Bear Pride, simply email pblangger@neo.rr.com and say, "Put me on the E-List."



Photo by  
Mike Diroll

### J-N-J good luck charm for the Cavs

The Cleveland Cavaliers gave a nearly flawless performance in their 121-85 victory over the Washington Wizards at the Q on January 23, just after the JHS Jacks-N-Jills song and dance troupe opened the game with the National Anthem.

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Jackson cheerleaders Brooke Barley, Moriah Jones, and Rissa Neuenschwander offer cookie samples to Rich Patti, American Legion Post 221 Commander and Bill Matthews, the Legion's 2nd Vice Commander.



Clockwise from left are: Jackson student Kaylynn Berens, LT Steve Berens (US Navy Intelligence), Jackson student Tucker Berens, Young Chefs Academy owner Dorothy Dittmore, Rick Mirezzi of the Veteran Connection, Young Chefs Academy instructors Terri Kennedy and Ryan Dunham, Erin Fitzpatrick, Stephanie Head, Camille Worstell, instructor Nancy Pierson Jennifer Durr, Jackson culinary arts student Ben Kracker, Michael Beris, and Matt Monborne.

## Students bake 5,000 cookies for soldiers

As you read this, perhaps one of 120 local soldiers is munching on a cookie made in Jackson Township by one of 50 students who paid \$30 for the opportunity to do so. When Dorothy Dittmore, owner of Young Chefs Academy, and her student bakers made a New Year's resolution to do "one selfless act per month," the idea to bake and mail 5,000 cookies to American soldiers in Iraq was born. Mrs. Dittmore linked with Buehlers

Food Market who donated all of the cookie ingredients and with Rick

"THE REASON AMERICA  
CAN'T BE BEAT IS BECAUSE  
OF KIDS LIKE THIS."

—Rick Mirezzi, The Veteran Connection

Mirezzi of the Veteran Connection who helped organize the four-hour event that took place on Saturday, Jan. 26.

Jackson students got into the mix when JHS principal Rick Campbell called Mr. Mirezzi to ask how our students could help. And help, they did. The Jazz Band blew a Big Band sound to enliven the crowd. Cheerleaders passed out cookie samples and collected shipping donations. The Jacks-N-Jills entertained. Culinary students baked and helped pack the cookies. And, Interact Club presented a check for \$1,233.76 for shipping.



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**FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**All district construction projects are complete**

I am pleased to welcome our entire community to a ceremony to dedicate the new high school. It is a building that will serve our children's academic needs for many years, a building that is sure to make voters very proud.



Superintendent  
Cheryl Haschak

students. It is incumbent on us, as intelligent adults and as a progressive community, to support the educational needs of our next generation. Their future depends on it.

**Jackson Local has responded to the community's requests to reduce expenditures in the following ways:**

**You are invited**

The high school dedication ceremony will be held at the high school on Sunday, March 16 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The brief ceremony will begin at 3:00 in the Performing Arts Hall. After the ceremony, you won't want to miss a tour of the renovated rooms and the new construction.

- eliminated administrators
- implemented administrative wage freeze
- staff now pays toward health insurance
- balanced the cafeteria budget
- condensed high school and middle school busing
- reduced classified staff
- accepted tuition students at JHS
- offered retirement incentive to older staff in order to hire younger staff at the lower end of the pay scale

**Don't be fooled by beauty  
We beat the state average**

We have built a high-functioning high school building at a cost that beats the state average. Due to smart collaborations with experts in the field of academic construction, excellent design, and making the hard decisions about how to manage the available funds, the high school addition was constructed for less than the average cost of new, state funded schools in Ohio. Our addition was constructed for \$126.96 per square foot, while districts using the Ohio School Facilities Commission program were constructing buildings at an average of \$160.66 per square foot.

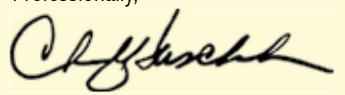
**We have done what you asked,  
let's talk again about the effects**

As many of you know, we had been attending coffees in your homes to learn more about what you wanted and didn't want in your school district. We listened and learned then went back and implemented your ideas. Now that some of the changes have been in place for a while, let's talk again about how you feel they are working.

**We made improvements districtwide  
with the March 2004 Bond Issue**

When voters passed a bond issue in 2004, we promised you improvements districtwide. That bond issue generated a **fixed** \$48.5 million dollars. The funds were allocated as follows:  
\$45 million = High School Addition & Renovations  
\$1.3 million = Amherst Elementary Addition  
\$1.3 million = Lake Cable Elementary Addition  
\$0.5 million = Sauder Renovations  
\$0.4 million = Middle School Site Improvements

You can help us again by hosting a small-group coffee in your home. Invite about 10 of your friends, family, colleagues, neighbors. We will come to listen again, to learn, and to aid your understanding of what we face daily in the way of budget restraints and state mandates. We want to hear your thoughts and further refine our system as we go forward together. If you are willing to host us, simply call the central office at 330-830-8000.

Professionally,  


**Educating children is our duty**

We must continue to strive for excellence by offering a curriculum that meets the changing needs of our

Cheryl Haschak  
Superintendent, Jackson Local Schools

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**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:** Send comments to Paula Blangger, Jackson Middle School, 7355 Mudbrook NW, Massillon, OH 44646, or [pblangger@neo.rr.com](mailto:pblangger@neo.rr.com)



## Jackson High - Big Bang for our Buck

### What's inside the 150,000 s.f. new high school addition?

- (33) Academic Classrooms
- (2) Computer Labs
- (1) Writing Lab
- (4) Home Economics Labs
- 150-seat Lecture Hall
- Media Center with (2) Classrooms & (1) Computer Lab
- (1) Special Education Classroom with (1) Support Space
- New Band Room with (6) small practice rooms
- Scene Shop - to support auditorium/stage functions
- Black Box Theatre to support School for the Arts
- Bears Den Restaurant
- 550-seat Student Commons/Cafeteria/Lobby/Entrance
- School Office Area with Guidance Department, Clinic

### High school is now more energy efficient

- Natural lighting from windows has been incorporated into as much of the school as possible because of the positive effects daytime light has on student learning.
- Indirect lighting is used throughout the building to provide a more even light that reduces eye strain. This requires half the number of light fixtures to do the job, thereby reducing maintenance costs.
- The carpeting has a 25-year warranty. It can be cleaned in 1/3 the time and installed at 1/5th the cost of terrazzo. Calling it carpeting is not technically accurate. It looks like carpet and feels somewhat like carpet, but is really a hard, tufted vinyl that is impervious to moisture. This flooring reduces slip hazards and offers better acoustics than tile or terrazzo in large areas such as our 550-seat cafeteria, where community functions will also take place.
- Lighting sensors have been installed in all areas to automatically turn off lights when rooms are not occupied.
- Special air filtration systems improve the indoor air quality and reduce the amount of outside air needed for heating and cooling.
- Up-to-date kitchen equipment was installed to help our food service department operate more efficiently.

### Renovation of the original 1976 building (310,000 s.f.)

These areas have been renovated, creating the following spaces:

- (29) Academic Classrooms
- (6) Special Education Classrooms with
- (3) Computer Labs, including (1) Journalism Lab
- Speech & Debate Lab with (3) small practice rooms
- Marketing Classroom and school bookstore
- 70-seat group meeting/study hall
- (11) Science Labs
- (5) Business Classrooms
- Mechanical Drawing Lab
- (6) Art Classrooms
- (2) New Locker Rooms
- Larger Wrestling Room
- Cheerleading Room
- (2) Music Ensemble Rooms
- Music storage space

### The following received minor renovations

- Choir Room with (5) individual practice rooms
- Horticulture Lab (includes new greenhouse)
- All locker rooms

### The following received life safety renovations only

- (3) Science Labs (built in 1993)
- Main Gym (built in 1976)
- Auxiliary Gym (built in 1993)
- Auditorium (built in 1988)
- Distance Learning Lab (built in 2000)
- Vocation Labs - Auto/Carpentry/Wood/Horticulture (built in 1976)
- Computer Networking Lab

### The project includes these building code updates

- Fire Sprinkler System
- Fire Alarm and Emergency Exit Lighting
- Fire Separation Walls (to contain the spread of fire)
- Emergency Power Generator
- Digital Security Camera and Card Access System



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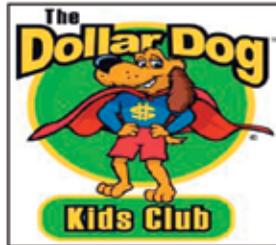
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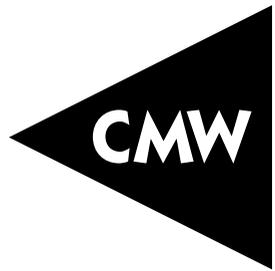


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## HIGH SCHOOL

### JHS students learn vocational skills at Buehlers

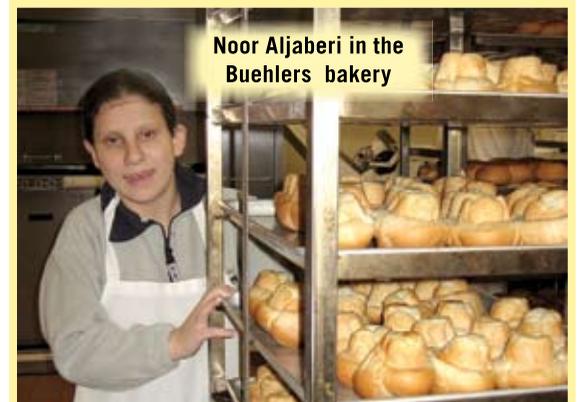
Twice each week, three JHS student board a SARTA bus and travel to Beuhlers Food Market where they work alongside a store employee to learn various job skills.

Michael Sands works in the kitchen doing whatever task needs doing, such as washing dishes and rotating stock. “We give him more tasks each time he’s here, and his confidence is growing enormously,” said Michael’s mentor and the store’s food service manager Michele Vick. “He’s friendly, outgoing, excited to be here, and quite capable,” she added.

Noor Aljaberi works in the bakery under the supervision of 1st baker Marty Rucker. “Noor is a good kid who is willing to learn anything and likes to stay busy. She never stops,” Mr. Rucker said. “And best of all, she can take us picking on her. We like to tease her,” he added with a chuckle.

Jeremy Johnson works in maintenance alongside his mentor James Covey. “He’s a good worker and a good kid,” Mr. Covey said, adding, “He cleans carts, empties trash, and does whatever needs to be done. I can leave him on his own, and this helps him become more confident.”

“Beuhlers has done an outstanding job of welcoming our students into their store and placing them with outstanding mentors. Our students absolutely love working there,” said Jackie Cameron, JHS teacher of students with special needs.



Noor Aljaberi in the Buehlers bakery



Jeremy Johnson works maintenance with James Covey.



In the kitchen with Michael Sands

### Lapadot and McDonough are Repository Teens of the Month

JHS seniors Molly McDonough and Mike Lapadot were chosen as January’s Repository Teens of the Month by the Repository Stark Teen Board comprised of one senior from each high school in Stark County. Jackson’s Repository Teen Board member is JHS senior Emily Gilbride. She is responsible for nominating a senior boy and girl from Jackson each month. Each of the other schools do the same, then the board meets to select the winners from applications with the nominees’ names removed. The board’s purpose is to recognize the most outstanding senior students in Stark County based on achievements in character, leadership, service, citizenship, and scholarship. Read the entire pieces on Molly and Mike at [www.cantonrep.com](http://www.cantonrep.com) in the January 27 archives.



Molly McDonough



Mike Lapadot

### JHS offers exciting new business / computer science classes

After surveying our students and meeting with other high schools, colleges, and universities to measure the needs of the increasingly global student, JHS will offer seven new classes in the 2008-09 school year. No new staff were hired to make these offerings. The current staff excitedly worked with administrators to research and prepare the new courses.

#### New Business offerings

- Business and Computer Foundations (replaces Computer Applications and is required for graduation)
- International Business
- Ethics for Business and Technology
- Entrepreneurship

#### New Computer Science offerings

- Computer Office Applications
- Computer Graphic and Print Design
- Broadcast Media

With student scheduling in full swing, now is the time to decide what courses will best serve your goals. If you have questions please contact JHS assistant principal Jeff Moore or teachers in the business and computer departments by calling 330-837-3501.

NOTE: All traditionally offered classes will continue to be available.

## HIGH SCHOOL

### JHS artists win gold keys in regional competition

Amanda Smith and Tyler Lutz are planning careers as artists, and they are well on their way, having won top honors in the Scholastic Art Competition. This competition is the oldest and one of the most prestigious student art competitions in the country. Past winners include noted artists such as Red Grooms and Andy Warhol. Winners are eligible for scholarships and cash prizes, and have their work sent for national judging in New York City. Amanda and Tyler's work will now travel to New York for national judging in the spring. National winning work is exhibited at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C.



Amanda Smith



Tyler Lutz

The two students have found their passion and live it daily.

"I have never been excited about chemistry or math, but I spend hours and hours on my art at school and willingly at home. It's not like doing homework," Amanda said.

"People think there aren't careers in art, but there are plenty; graphic design, advertising, architecture, illustration," said Tyler who plans to attend Columbus College of Art and Design where he will study illustration. Amanda is not yet sure which path her art will follow, but knows her career will involve art.



From left are the students who recited poems during the Poetry Out Loud celebration. Vivian Mazzocca, Hannah Thomas, Abigail Eisenbrei, Tim Stevenson, John Pinson, David Peters, Matt Lo, Maria Komer, Sarah Shew, Frank Allen, and Alexandra Lahm.

### Poetry Out Loud produces excitement at JHS

Sophomore students in Buff Darkw's 113 English classes

immersed themselves in poetry for five days, reading, memorizing, and learning to recite outstanding poetry. Their efforts culminated in a contest of near athletic proportions as reciters used their voices and the poet's words to depict the meaning of the poem without dramatic movement, but with intense feeling that mesmerized the student audience. The competition was judged on a point scale by a panel of teachers. The three winners were Sarah Shew for her 1st place delivery of *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou, Matt Lo for

his 2nd place delivery of *A Satirical Elegy on the Death of a Late Famous*

*Tide Rises, the Tide Falls* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Original rap written and performed by student Chelsea Cochrane as one of the emcees for Jackson's first Poetry Out Loud event.

So here's the story from A to Z  
You wanna hear poetry  
You gotta listen to me.

Third period is the biz with  
Hannah Thomas the coolest kid  
You got Sarah Shew who'll impress more than a few  
And Vivian Mazzocca who rhymes with Chewbacca  
May the force be wi- wi- with you!

You've got fourth period where the kids are fly  
Just look at Abby Eisenbrei  
Tim is going in for the win  
And David Peters is trying to beat 'em...

General by Jonathan Swift, and John Pinson for his delivery of *The*

Mrs. Darkow based the immersion on Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation to encourage high school students to memorize and perform great poems. This exciting new program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

"It is a creative and, dare I say, fun way to read and listen to a lot of poetry in a relatively short amount of time," Mrs. Darkow said.

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Sifu Jeffrey Yang has been involved in Ngo Cho since 1973 where he was a very active and serious student under the late Master Lo King Hui. Jeffrey Yang migrated to the USA where he became the successful restaurant owner of Manchu Cafe. Since migrating to the USA in 1978 he has never abandoned his roots of training in Ngo Cho Kun. In 2005 with the blessing and permission of headmaster Henry Lo, Sifu Yang began teaching the art in America and has been featured in the October 2007 issue of Inside Kung Fu magazine.

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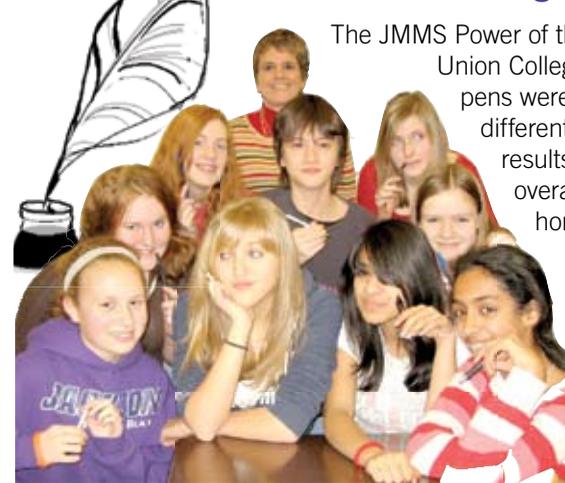
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## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Power of the Pen team brings home 4th place honors



The JMMS Power of the Pen team recently traveled to Mount Union College for the District Tournament. Their pens were "on fire" as each member wrote to three different prompts. When the dust settled and results were in, the 8th grade team took 4th place overall. In addition, two writers earned individual honors: Karissa Schroeter finished 5th and Pooja Podugu finished 3rd. Power of the Pen is a 22-year-old organization that sponsors three levels of tournament writing competition for 7th and 8th graders: district, regional, and state, much like athletic events. It is the direct stimulus for more than 25,000 pieces written by Ohio students annually.

Front from left: Jodie Hayes, Savannah Hedquist, Saadia Pervaiz, and Pooja Podugu. Back row: Alex Nichols, Karissa Schroeter, Nat Steiner, Elle Grubb, and Sarah Sullivan. Coach Amy Dretke is at the top of the pyramid. Team members not pictured are: Rachel Szeles, Caitlyn Maholic, Lydia Whisler, Bailey Fries, Taylor Zepp, and Tyler Wynkoop.

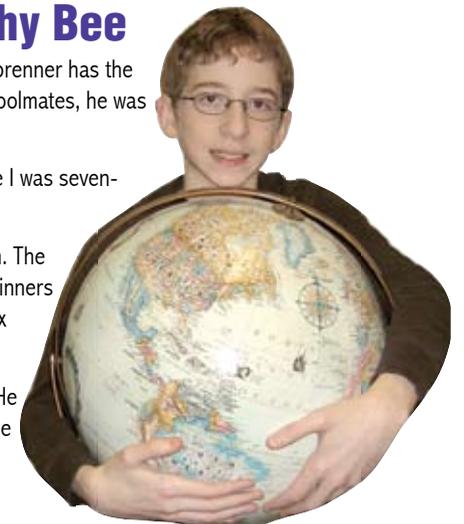
### Eschenbrenner wins Geography Bee

For the second consecutive year, seventh grader Zachary Eschenbrenner has the whole world in his hands. After 12 rounds, competing with his schoolmates, he was unstoppable in the annual JMMS Geography Bee.

"Geography is just me," he said. "I have been interested in it since I was seven-years-old."

Zachary's victory qualified him to take the 75-question state exam. The top 100 winners represent their schools at the state level. State winners advance to the National Geography Bee, hosted by Jeopardy's Alex Trebek in Washington D.C.

Zachary has traveled with his family to 18 US states and Canada. He hopes to someday travel the globe to see for himself, the places he has visited via video and textbooks.



Finishing 2nd in the JMMS Geography Bee was Pooja Podugu.



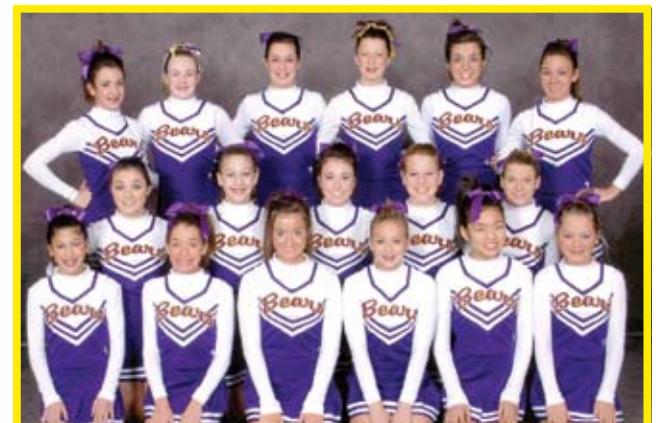
### From Ellis Island to Jackson Township

Each winter, JMMS social studies teachers immerse 6th graders in the culture, clothing, religions, and customs of people worldwide. To culminate the study, students bring in a typical food from their culture. Parents label the dishes with the food's name and country of origin. The gymnasium full of food is sampled by students and staff. The sheer volume of food gives students the opportunity to expand their palates and see that not only America, but also Jackson Township truly is a cultural melting pot. The excess food is delivered to a local women's shelter.

William Gokee, pictured at left, dressed in clothing from Ghan and gave a multi-cultural talk in Tim Hulse's social studies classes.

### Middle School cheerleaders make history

The JMMS Cheerleading Squad won the Grand Championship title at the Buckeye State American Championships in Columbus, January 27. This is the first time in the competition's history that a middle school won this prestigious award. The girls also won 1st place at the Jamfest Cheerleading and Dance Competitions in Cleveland, December 8 and won first in the middle school division at the Winter Chill Challenge at the Canton Civic Center, January 13. The squad is coached by Christine Hymes and Lindsay Galley.



Front from left: Katie Peters, Lindsey Bryan, Brennen Mashchak, Peyton Bogdan, Khailing Neoh, and Christa Longworth. Middle row: Nichole Bahas, Stephanie Spadone, Alexis Kroah, Jamie Ingram, and Ellie Saltsman. Back row: Maddy Straughn, Andi Henry, Madison Ross, Brianna Campbell, Hannah Mallernee, and Vittoria Domino.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### JMMS holds career fair

The entire eighth grade class (about 500 students) attended a career fair in the school's gymnasium to investigate career possibilities. Approximately 30 members of the community brought their careers to school for students to explore.

Each student was given a set of questions to guide them through the investigations. They asked presenters such things as: What kind of education would I need? What kinds of classes should I take in high school? Is there a need for this profession? How do you use math, science, English in your job?

Students could visit each presenter or spend their entire 45-minute block with just a few, depending on interest level.



**Aultman Emergency physician Dr. Ronald Rusnak loans his stethoscope to Noelle Weiser who listens to friend Taylor Zepp's heartbeat.**



**Jackson Fire Department training captain Ed SENSEL gives Sidney Sponseller a taste of a firefighting.**



**Eric Johnson, investment specialist from Butler Wick, tells Alexis Kroah and Maddy Straughn that an investing career will allow them to perfect their shopping careers.**

### Peer tutoring benefits tutor and tutored

JMMS students can participate in the peer tutoring program every Tuesday and Thursday after school to help boost their grades.

"I'm a pretty good student but I want to be the best I can be, so I'm in the program," said 6th grader Luke Potts. His tutor, 6th grader Mandy Schuller replied, "I like teaching him new things, and reviewing. It helps me, too."

Through a wide smile, 6th grader Lindsey Stone said, "Tutoring is helping me get better math grades." Her tutor, 6th grader Erin Klaschik added, "Helping her helps me remember things I've forgotten and makes me feel good about myself."



**Mandy Schuller and Luke Potts work together on math concepts.**

To become a tutor or receive tutoring, see a teacher or guidance counselor.

"It's fun to get better grades," Luke said.

### JMMS top spellers advance to regional bee

This year's Jackson Spelling Bee winner is sixth grader Emily Ribaldo. Jackson's alternate is eighth grader Vandana Pawa.



**Vandana Pawa & Emily Ribaldo**

Excitement hung in the air as these two final contestants battled it out for first place. Their targets included words such as: mahi-mahi, dungaree, libretto, sayonara, and a few words that caused chuckles from fellow bee contestants, pumpernickel, chimichanga, and mumuu.

Emily Ribaldo will now represent Jackson Local Schools at the Repository 62nd Regional Grand Final Spelling Bee on March 8th at 1:30, at Oakwood Middle School. The public is invited to attend. Winners of this event advance to the 81st Annual Scripps National Spelling Week at the Grand Hyatt Washington, Sunday, May 25 to Saturday, May 31, 2008.



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## SCHOOL CALENDAR

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



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## NOTICES

### Basketball Summer Camp Sign-Up

Students in kindergarten-8th grade, learn the Polar Bear fundamentals from JHS head coach Mike Fuline and staff June 9-12. Register by May 21. Applications available in each school, For details call Scott Studer, 330-837-3501.

### P.R.I.D.E. Registration

The P.R.I.D.E. program will be held at Amherst elementary June 9 through June 20th. Applications will be sent home with current 4th, 5th, and 6th graders.

### Preschool play group opens at JHS



JHS Child Development II students will host a play group at Jackson High School Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Feb. 26 through May 16. There is no charge but space is limited. Sign up by calling child development teacher Andrea Stefan at 330-837-3501 ext. 1520. The student-run, teacher-supervised group uses the Ohio preschool curriculum to help children learn through play.

**Preschooler Katie Sieverts has captivated her young teachers Christine Curren, Kaitlin Willard, and Katie Spidell.**

### ClubZ! Launches 2008 Annual Achievement Award

The Akron-Canton Club Z! In-Home Tutoring Service invites students in grades 5-12 to apply for the 2008 Annual Achievement Award with opportunities to compete for awards totaling more than \$10,000. Teachers can submit nominations, or students can visit [www.clubztutoring.com](http://www.clubztutoring.com) for an application. Submit completed applications to your school guidance counselor or to a Club Z! representative before Friday, April 18.

### Canton Student Loan Foundation

To receive an application, contact the Canton Student Loan Foundation at (330) 493-0020 or [info@cantonstudentloan.org](mailto:info@cantonstudentloan.org). Applications may be downloaded at [www.cantonstudentloan.org](http://www.cantonstudentloan.org).



### Honors Choir performs

The all-elementary Honors Choir is an auditioned group of 88 fourth and fifth graders representing all four elementary schools (Amherst, Sauder, Strausser, and Lake Cable). Music teachers Nathalina Schloneger from Lake Cable, Suzanne Walters from Strausser, and Cindy Grove from Amherst direct the group in practices after school. The choir performed six pieces at the All-District Arts Extravaganza held recently at the high school to support arts education at Jackson.

"I love to sing because it's like when you make a wish and it comes true. It also flows through my body and that keeps me nice and calm. When I'm sad I sing a happy song and it makes me feel better. I love singing as much as when you get an A on a test. I love singing," said Sabrina Zanin.

"I love to sing because I've always wanted to be famous and I'm very good at acting. So I'm trying everything to get me closer to Hollywood" said Casey Murray.

"Singing makes me happy and there are a lot of people that inspire me," said Abby VanSchuyver.

"When I sing I get a really good feeling and it makes me smile," said Mia Nonno.

"I feel at home when I sing," said Jared Marsh.

"I like to hear my voice and I know singing makes people happy," said Sophie Gough.

"Singing lets me express my feelings and show emotion, and it's a special talent," said Ellen Baker.

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—Jim Williamson, B.S., M.A.Ed., Malone College  
(Fifth grade teacher, Amherst Elementary)

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

### JMMS Spring Craft Show

Saturday, March 8, from 10 – 4 p.m. More than 100 dealers with a variety of arts and crafts. Delicious food. No strollers, please, due to the high attendance.

### 28th Annual Jackson High School Big Band Dinner Dance

Saturday April 19, Jackson High School Commons. Dinner served at 7:00 p.m. and will feature a pasta buffet catered by the Culinary Arts Department of Jackson High School. Throughout the evening music will be performed by Jackson High School Jazz Ensemble I. Ticket go on sale in February and are available at Jackson High School (main office), Jackson Memorial Middle School (main office), or from any Jackson High School Jazz Ensemble I member.

### Safety Village Sign-Up

Parents can enroll their student in the Safety Village program beginning April 4. Applications will be available at the Township Safety Center, 7383 Fulton Road NW. The summer program, run by retired Jackson teacher Marilyn Jones in cooperation with the school system and fire and police departments, will be held June 16-20 and is open to students currently in kindergarten or 1st grade. Safety lessons include fire prevention, police 9-1-1, stranger danger, seat belts, bus, bicycle, pedestrian, railroad, drugs, guns, poisons, weather, and home safety. Registration deadline is May 16, and enrollment is limited to 150 children.



### Dr. Seuss springs to life at Jackson on his 104th birthday

JMMS students practice for the upcoming musical Seussical Jr. presented at Jackson High School in the Center for Performing Arts: • Friday, February 29 at 7:00 P.M. • Saturday, March 1 at 7:00 P.M. • Sunday, March 2 (Dr. Seuss's birthday) at 3:00 P.M. Tickets will be available to the public in the JMMS main office during school hours beginning Wednesday, Feb. 6. All tickets are reserved seating, and are \$6 each. Tickets will also be available at the door. See your favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Lazy Mayzie, and all of the Whos down in Whoville. The score erupts as a Seussian gumbo of musical styles, ranging from Latin to pop, swing to gospel, and R&B to funk. The production puts 46 JMMS students on stage and scores of other students who work behind the scenes on publicity and as members of the stage crew. The team practiced after school three days a week and some Saturdays since early November.

**JACKSON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEB SITE**  
[jacksonpolarbearsalumni.org](http://jacksonpolarbearsalumni.org)

### Bear's Den Restaurant open to the public

The Bear's Den student-run restaurant serves the public delicious lunches from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday at Jackson High School. Due to student testing and spring break, the Den will be closed March 10-14 and March 20 to April 7. **Spring Lunch Buffet** on March 18-19 open to the public, first come first served. Limited seating. Large groups, please make a reservation at 330-837-3501 ext. 1435.

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### Board of Education Meeting Schedule

March 18.....	High School.....	6:30 PM
April 15.....	High School.....	6:30 PM
May 20.....	High School.....	6:30 PM
June 17.....	High School.....	6:00 PM
July 15.....	High School.....	6:00 PM
Aug. 19.....	High School.....	6:00 PM
Sept. 16.....	High School.....	6:30 PM
Oct. 21.....	Sauder.....	6:30 PM
Nov. 18.....	Lake Cable.....	6:30 PM
Dec. 16.....	Amherst.....	6:30 PM

Meeting dates and times can change.  
 Call 330-830-8000 to confirm.

**Thank you...** Jackson Local Schools thanks Massillon Cable for its donation of a modem and installation at the Scott Johnson residence. This has allowed Mr. Rui Li, our Chinese teacher, direct communication with his parents, wife, and one-year-old son in China. We also thank the Scott Johnson family for hosting Mr. Li in their home this entire school year, and the Rotary Club of Jackson Township for seeing to Mr. Li's incidental needs through a \$100 per month grant. Mr. Li's salary is paid by the Chinese government, not Jackson Local Schools.



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**9:15 & 10:30 Adult Bible Study**  
**10:30 Senior High School Sunday School**

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**AMHERST ELEMENTARY**

**Chemistry captivates Amherst students**

The Amherst PTO treated the entire student body to the COSI on Wheels Simply Chemistry program. Through a series of hands-on experiments designed to enhance knowledge of the chemistry in their daily lives, students decoded messages written in disappearing ink. They experimented with solutions to determine if they were acids or bases. They produced light, heat, and sound with a chemical reaction. The biggest crowd pleaser was blending the liquids polyvinyl alcohol and sodium tetra borate to form a solid that students recognized as slime.



**Kindergartner Gregory Baker makes slime with COSI instructor Christine Barnett.**

**Bear Cub tutoring jump-starts kids' learning**

Amherst fifth grader, Jackie Capuano, helps kindergartners Carter Paulus and Olivia Mowery practice their letters. Jackie is a tutor in the Bear Cubs Tutoring Program. She is one of 75 fifth graders who give up free study time to help younger students.



"It's fun, and the kids are really cute," Jackie said, adding, "Sometimes I do a letter set with them then we go over it again, and I can see they really know more. This makes me feel proud and glad to help them."

**Super Citizens lunch with the principal**

Every Friday, Amherst teachers submit names of super student citizens to the school principal Elaine Ferguson. A super citizen is helpful to others, responsible in words and actions, is a good role model, and learns effectively. Once a month, a new group of super citizens is treated to a pizza lunch with the principal to call attention to their excellence.



"Getting picked feels like I'm becoming better in life and becoming a better person. This was the highlight of my day," said super citizen Nick Christensen.

"Being with such respectful, responsible, helpful learners is the highlight of my day, too," said Mrs. Ferguson.

"It's uplifting," added Olivia Funk.

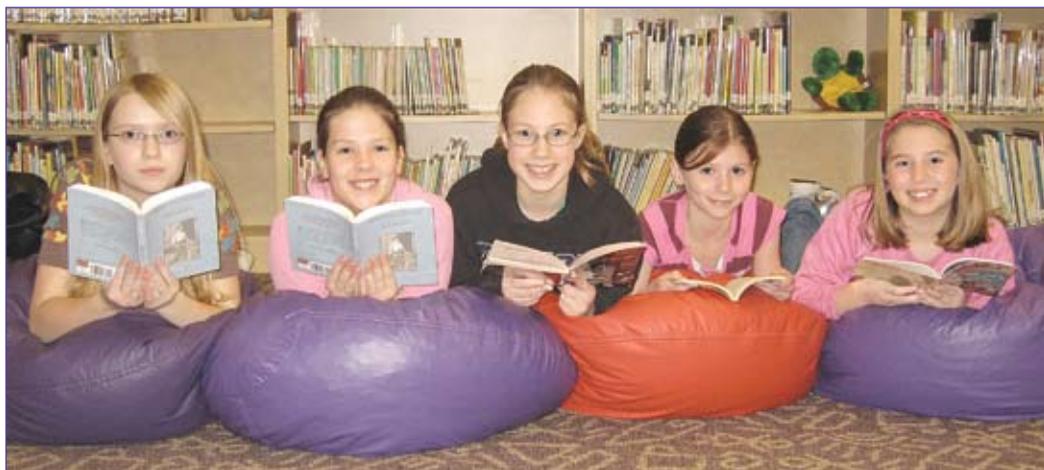
**From left are: Diana Ciocan, Olivia Funk, Beth Howie, Danny Holliday, guidance counselor Lee Fortner, Jenna Fries, school principal Elaine Ferguson, William Kanters, Nick Christensen, and Nathan Rearick.**

## LAKE CABLE ELEMENTARY



### All About Ice

Lake Cable's everyday kindergartners traveled with parent chaperones to Center Ice Complex to learn about ice rinks. After the children skated, Center Ice president Mike Shockley gave the students a tour of the building, let each child sit on the Zamboni, and explained the workings of ice arenas. Everyday kindergarten is made available to families for a fee. The children enjoy regular field trips at no additional cost to the district because parents absorb the cost.



Battle of the Books winners (from left) are 5th graders Jillian Eckroate, Olivia Zanolli, Kristin Woodard, Kelsey Harkness, and Abby Young.

## Lake Cable holds Battle of the Books

Victors of the Lake Cable's Battle of the Books were the "Speedy Readers" team of Jillian Eckroate, Olivia Zanolli, Kristin Woodard, Kelsey Harkness, and Abby Young. All teams were required to read six books: **Pictures of Hollis Woods** by Patricia Reilly Giff, **Head for the Hills** by Paul Robert Walker, **Rascal** by Sterling North, **Number the Stars** by Lois Lowrey, **A Year Down Yonder** by Richard Peck, and **My Side of the Mountain** by Jean Craighead George. Students gave their teams a name and wore costumes that represented their name.

The Speedy Readers wore racing colors (black, white, red). The teams assembled for two battles with two rounds of questions in each battle. The team could discuss its question but was required to give an answer within the 30 second time limit. In the second battle, the time limit was shortened to 20 seconds and then 10 seconds.

"We got a perfect score in both battles," said Kristin who reads at least 200 books each year.

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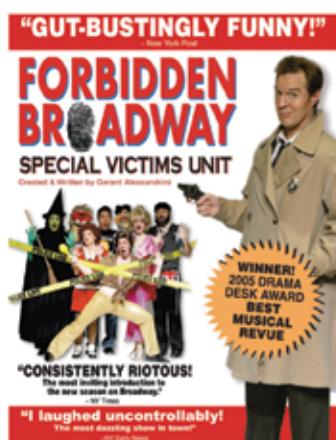


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## SAUDER ELEMENTARY

### Sauder kids perform not-so-random acts of kindness

Sauder 3rd graders set a goal and intention to perform 100 acts of kindness from Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday to Valentine's Day. Parents could write and submit an act of kindness seen at home. Students could submit an act performed by a classmate, but not for themselves. Each class kept a chart like the one pictured below.

- Bridget Washington helped her younger brother Clay make his valentines.
- Maddy Hostetler calls her great grandpa and grandma to have special talks with them, which makes them feel very special and wonderful.
- Franklin Shew returned his neighbor's dog when she got out of her fence. Franklin also comforted the dog because she was scared.
- Jaret Beaber helped other students pack up at the end of the day when they were running late.

Chael Brady made his mom breakfast in bed.

Victoria Piper helped out after calling hours by entertaining her mom's great niece and nephew who just lost their grandpa.

Lauren Dauk is taking care of a homeless kitten. She made him a bed in a box on her porch and brought him cat food. The stray likes Lauren so much, he decided to stay. The family calls him "the adopted cat on our porch."



Mrs. Welshenbaugh's third grade class shows their completed kindness chart.

- Madison Linz shared toys without being asked.
- Madison Gill helped her mom while she was sick with the flu.
- Grace Dafler made her mom and dad's bed then laid out their pajamas.
- Sarah Brine loaned milk money to a friend who forgot hers.
- Anthony Shelly took out his neighbor's trash.



### Leaping Leopards launch Jump Rope for Heart

The Louisville City Schools' Leaping Leopards jump rope team visited Sauder Elementary to perform a high-energy jump rope show loaded with non-traditional, multiple-rope techniques and tricks. The Sauder student body rose in applause when one Leaping Leopard shot a basket from three-point range while jumping rope. The group kicked off Sauder's annual Jump Rope for Heart project. Sauder students hope to raise \$2,700 this year for the American Heart Association by asking friends and family for donations based on the amount of time the students spend jumping rope. Sauder physical education teacher Jim Kish has motivated the students by promising to teach all day in a dress if they meet the goal. The Leaping Leopards practice at school during recess and on Sundays.

## STRAUSSER ELEMENTARY



**GETTING READY FOR THE ART AUCTION:** Seated on the floor (from left) are: Jordan Ricosky, Mark West, and Sean Wahl. Seated on the table are Alexandra Baxter and Brooke Parsons. Standing are Gary Parsons, Victoria Baxter, Lori Martino, Lauren Martino, Kim Maier, and Logan Maier.

## Art Extravaganza

There was art-a-plenty at the Strausser art auction held at the time of this printing. In addition to student art and local professional art sold at the auction, there were baskets brimming with art supplies (as shown above) and even a 10-ton spirit rock that sits at the school's entrance and waits for a painted design from the winning bidder. The school's parent support group, PTG, organized the effort and will use the proceeds to purchase a SmartBoard for the students. A SmartBoard looks like a white board and acts like a computer, allowing teachers and students to hand-write on it while accessing the Internet or stored files. All work, written or accessed can be saved or printed on paper.



SmartBoard



Ashley Parsons shows principal Anna Minor her Webkin toy as her mother Candy Parsons registers Ashley for kindergarten. Looking on is school secretary Pauline Tentler.

## Kindergartner asks to skip a grade

"I always wanted to go to Strausser school," said four-year-old Ashley Parsons right before she asked the school's principal Anna Minor, "Can I skip kindergarten and go to first grade?"

Of course, the answer was "no," even though Mrs. Minor jokingly admitted that Ashley "practically runs the school." Ashley has been a staple at Strausser since she was a toddler because her mother, Candy Parsons, is an active member of the school's parent-teacher group (PTG). When Mrs. Parsons volunteers, Ashley is in tow. And Mrs. Parsons volunteers a lot. "Our volunteers are just the best," Mrs. Minor said. "They get the job done."

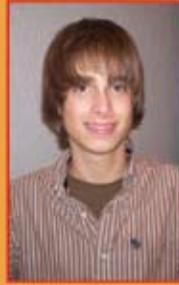
Jackson registers the bulk of its kindergartners every February at each elementary school. Many four-year-olds were excited to begin the next phase of their lives, but Ashley had specific reasons for her excitement. "I want to eat lunch and go to gym and go to recess," she said, still hoping she could do it as a 1st grader instead of a kindergartner. But why skip a grade? "Because I want to be in Miss Beck's room," Ashley said. "She is pretty and she has long hair."

Turns out that although Strausser 1st grade teacher Jamie Beck is pretty and does have long hair, the real reason Ashley wants to be with her is that she has heard many happy stories about Miss Beck from her older siblings who had her as a teacher. Mrs. Minor assured Ashley that she will have many happy stories of her own to tell as she makes her way through the Jackson Local schools.

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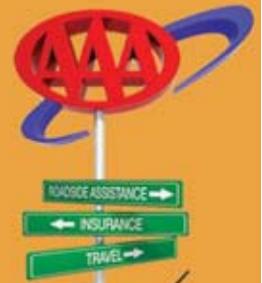
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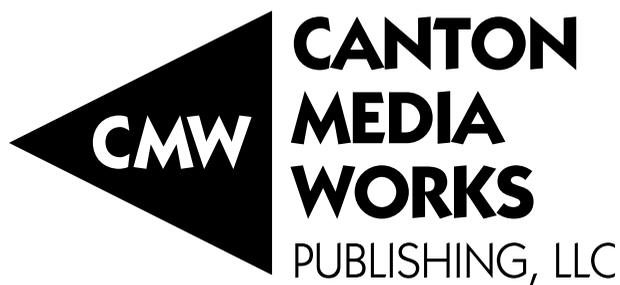
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## VARSITY SPORTS



The JHS Soccer team on their home field after the 2-0 victory over Hudson for the district championship.

### First-ever trip to state for Jackson boys' soccer

The 2007 Jackson Boys Varsity Soccer team went 18-2-3 this fall, capturing their 15th Federal League Championship, 3rd District Championship, 1st Regional Championship, and their 1st ever appearance in the State Championship. Coach Michael Biros was named Stark County and Federal League Coach of the Year. "The boys dedicated themselves year round, took personal accountability, and paid attention to details, that's how they did it," said coach Biros. The team became Federal League Champs by beating Lake. "And Lake had a really good team," Biros said. They went on to beat Hudson in the rain, sleet, and 30 mph winds for the District title, and finally won its state semi-final game in sudden death overtime, scoring a goal by Senior Steve Gilbert with one minute left on the clock.

Quebec Gibbons, center midfielder

for the Bears, commented on the experience of playing at state. "It was like a dream, walking down our student commons with our school cheering us, stepping onto a charter bus with a police escort, playing at Columbus Crew Stadium. Wow. It was a rush of joy just to be in the same locker room used by athletes that we look up to," he said.

Ultimately, the team finished second at state, yielding to Hilliard Davison with a score of 2-1. "It was a pretty exciting second half, but we just couldn't tie it up," Biros said.

There were season standouts such as goalkeeper John Brubach who set a school record with 15 shut-outs for the season. He was the top rated goalkeeper in Stark County, the Federal League, and the Greater Akron District, and a 1st team OSSCA Div I All-State selection. Dustin Kisaki, a junior and three-year starter, was named 1st team Federal League.

Sophomore Greg Marchand, the team's defensive specialist, was named 1st team Federal League. "He got us out of trouble and led a lot of scoring attacks," Biros said. Senior Jamie Taylor was the leading goal scorer with 13. Twin captains Mike and Robbie Lapadot "pulled the team together and bolstered our record-breaking defense," Biros said. Evan McCreary, a junior and three-year-starter, broke his jaw at the beginning of the season but came back as a leading goal scorer with 6 the last part of the season and in the playoffs. Derek Zuniga, a sophomore and two-year-starter, played every position but goalie. "He's a dominant figure out there," Biros said.

The team's GPA is 3.2 with seven varsity members holding a 4.0+. The players also volunteer time in the spring and fall as coaches in the soccer instructional programs for Jackson's youth players.

### Senior Citizens pay half price for 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.

### Volleyball coach marks 300th win



Julie Kovick

Jackson has had only three other girls' volleyball coaches:

- Fran Bartholomew
- Judy Christine
- Patty Rafeiledes

JHS girls' volleyball coach Julie Kovick celebrated her 300th victory during a tournament last season. All of her wins were at Jackson where she has coached for the past 24 years. In addition, she was named Federal League Coach of the Year, Stark County Coach of the Year (Division I), and Stark County Volleyball Coach of the Year (overall).

"It's nice to have the milestone recognized, but it's kids who bring the wins," said the modest coach Kovick. "Jackson has always had a strong program with good kids. This year, every player brought her best. They respected each other and fed off each other. There was no big star. That's what you need for success."

The team tied with Lake to win the Federal League Championship. "Lake was our only loss of the season, and they were the top seed," coach Kovick said. "Our kids wanted it, which just proves that if you work hard enough, you can get what you want."

Coach Kovick was also linked with Lake when the Bears and the Blue Streaks teamed up to raise over \$4,000 for breast cancer research.

"I measure success by the number of kids who stay involved with the sport after high school," she said, naming several players who have played in college and a few who returned to help out at Jackson. "That's what makes me proud," she said, "passing it on."

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Student's dream of building a school is now a reality



Carly's completed school in Vietnam



Carly Zalenski

During spring break, JHS 9th grader Carly Zalenski will travel deep into the Mekong Delta of Southern Vietnam to dedicate a school that was built with funds she raised.

"I have wanted to build a school in Vietnam since I was in third grade, when I helped with another project for children in Vietnam. I saw pictures of these kids and never forgot those faces. I never imagined that I would be able to go to Vietnam to see some of the 500 children the school will serve," Carly said.

Carly spent just under two years reaching her goal of \$50,000, while making presentations of her school project

to Rotary clubs, local foundations, churches, and schools. East Coast Karate, her own Karate school, even held a fundraiser for her. Terry Anderson, journalist and former hostage in Beirut for 7 years, is co-chairman of the Vietnam Children's Fund. Mr. Anderson, who arranged a matching grant for the project, also came to Canton as guest speaker for a fundraiser.

Carly's nine-year-old brother Jake recently joined the effort by asking his Lake Cable schoolmates to donate school supplies for the children who will attend Carly's school.

"Our whole family has gotten involved," Carly said. "Everyone helps me. My sister Abby works behind the scenes, and my mom and dad are my road crew, driving me everywhere. I couldn't have done it without them."

### Rotary Interact Club gives back to the community

Michael Lapadot, president of the JHS Interact Club reports, "We've had a fantastic first half of the year. Some of the activities we have taken part in include volunteering for the local haunted hayride and the alumni banquet. We also organized another dodgeball tournament fundraiser and sold nearly 650 candy grams during the week before Christmas as a fun activity for the student body. In addition we sold pledges for the Reach for the Stars book program which gathered money and books for a local family in our annual adopt-a-family project. Overall we have raised nearly \$1000. Our plans include donating some of the profits to the Jackson Habitat for Humanity Club and to Young Chef's Academy and the Veteran Connection, two local organizations baking and sending 5,000 cookies to troops in Iraq. Our future plans include a Loveapalooza Valentine's Day dance and doing a pennies for patients fundraiser during the week of St. Patrick's Day. The Interact Club thanks the community for all its support. Interact is a Rotary sponsored service club for high school-age students.



Mike Lapadot

### Seven-year-old bowler rolls top honors



Chad Yacono

Chad Yacono, Lake Cable first grader, recently received "Bowler of the Month" honors from Park Center Lanes for bowling 56 pins over his average. This is his first year of bowling, averaging 89. He bowls every Saturday on a bumper bowling team called "The Champions" with his twin sister Alicia. Bowling has been a Yacono family tradition for many generations. Currently, all four Yacono children are on first place teams in three different divisions. The children are Miranda age 14, Vinnie age 10, and twins Alicia & Chad age 7. Chad's mom, Dawn Yacono said she loves this healthy sport because "the weather doesn't matter."

### Twirlers take top Junior Olympic and national spots

JMMS 8th grader Toriane Graal not only qualified to attend the Junior Olympics in Knoxville, TN (along with nearly 16,000 other athletes representing 22 sports) but also brought home three gold medals in the Junior Division of solo 1-baton, solo 2-baton, and X-strut. She placed 1st in each category in the preliminary rounds and held her 1st place ranking with gold medal performances in the final round of each event. Prior to the Junior Olympics, Toriane captured the prestigious titles of Junior Miss TU World Majorette and Junior International 2-baton Champion at the Twirling Unlimited International Championships as well as placing 3rd runner up in the Preteen Miss Majorette of America pageant at Notre Dame.



Olivia Hurt

Strausser 2nd grader Olivia Hurtt twirled her way to two of the most coveted titles of the National Baton Twirling Association. She won the Tiny Tot Grand National Twirling Championship at America's Youth on Parade that is held each year at Notre Dame University. Later that same week, she was also crowned Little Miss Majorette of America. Both of these champions are coached by Beth Colosetti Graal of Jackson. Graal is also Kent State University's "Touch of Gold" twirling instructor.



Toriane Graal

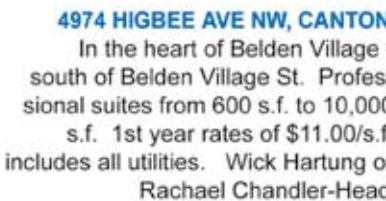
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**SCHOOLS ARE MADE OF PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR KIDS**

Teachers are primary in a student's school day, and many employees who rarely enter a classroom also do their best for students by keeping the environment safe and efficient or providing a specialized service. Here we introduce you to Jackson Local professionals who care for kids alongside classroom teachers.



**Mr. Waltz can fix just about anything that breaks**

Bruce Waltz, head maintenance mechanic, has a reputation for being able to fix everything in all of Jackson's six schools and Administration Office. Bruce is pictured here, flushing out one of the district's many fire hydrants. Twice each year the hydrants must be flushed to get rid of dirty water and be checked for cracks in the donut-size rubber washers deep inside the hydrant. We were glad Bruce had kept this middle school hydrant in good working order when we had a fire at the middle school several years ago.

"My job is challenging but never boring because I rarely do the same thing twice," he said. "One minute I'm a welder, the next minute I'm a boiler repair man or a pipe fitter, or an electrician. There's never a dull moment, and I like it that way."

**Smiling faces greet students, staff, public**

If you call or visit Jackson High School, you are likely to speak to one of these three women. Sandy Prosis handles or forwards upwards of 200 calls that come into the high school daily. Between phone calls, she does secretarial work and deposits money for clubs and programs. "Frequently I have one person on hold while I am transferring or helping someone on another line," she said smiling.

Donna Ruwadi, secretary to the principal, fields about 100 questions per day from students, staff, and the public who walk into the front office with a problem to be solved, this in addition to her work for Mr. Campbell. "There is never a spare moment, but I like working with our friendly staff, students, and community," she said.

Athletic secretary Connie Prazer sells athletic event tickets to the public, pays athletic bills, gives directions to fields, works with team schedules, orders buses, and helps coaches and parents set up awards banquets. "I am a tomboy from way back, so I just love working in the Athletic Department," she said.

Principal Rick Campbell had high praise for the women in the front office. "They do a great job greeting the public and interacting with our staff and students," he said. "They are constantly busy, and we are very fortunate to have them."



**Connie Prazer  
Athletic Secretary**



**Sandy Prosis  
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**Donna Ruwadi  
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