



Jefferson Township High School Newsletter

Jefferson Pride Holiday Edition!



JTHS Happenings:

- The Play “How The Avenger’s Saved Christmas” was performed.
- The 31st “Olde English Feast” was held at JTHS.
- The 2nd Service Night was held at JTHS.
- The Winter Band Concert was held at JTHS.
- FBLA Toy drive was held

CHINA! POTENTIAL HOST FAMILIES WANTED FOR 8 NIGHTS 9 DAYS!

The Jefferson Township High School is going global! JTHS is looking to host international exchange students from China in an effort to be more globally competitive and culturally responsive to an ever changing educational landscape. JTHS is looking for potential host families who are interested in providing a short term visitation for Chinese International Students.

JTHS is looking to host 27 Chinese exchange students for a short term meet and greet visit from January 31st, 2107 until February 8th, 2017. Each host family can take up to 3 students for the week. The host family will receive compensation of \$270 per student. \$50 will be provided as well as transportation expenses. The students speak both English and Mandarin. Please contact Dr. Plotts at 973-697-3535 or email him at tplots@jefftpw.org if you interested in being a host family.



Dr. Teirney, Mrs. Howe, and Mrs. Zeno join in the Holiday Assembly fun.

Science Connections

The science department has been busy in all disciplines. Our Earth Science faculty have been trained on, and will begin to use a new Starlab (portable planetarium) with their students. This digital marvel gives an amazing view of the cosmos, Earth's interior and also plays full dome movies. Biology faculty have been busy adding fish tanks to their classrooms for fish breeding and study. This will ultimately be tied into the study of genetics. Our chemistry faculty have been hard at work designing lesson that cover topics such as isotopes, chemical reactions and nomenclature. Lastly, our physics students have been working diligently learning about Newton's Laws of Motion.



World Language, ESL and Music Connection

French - December

The holiday spirit resounds in Madame K's French classes as they began the month by learning about la Fête de Saint Nicolas. Upper level students read the French legend and song while all students were surprised by a visit from Saint Nicholas who left treats in their shoes. The gaiety continued as they read an article in French about the annual Fête des lumières in Lyon and got to see some of the spectacular sound and light shows that were produced there

this year. As the learning and festivities continue, students in all levels are learning more about holiday celebrations in France and will apply their language proficiency to sing French carols and watch the traditional French movie about Babar et le Père Noël. In addition, French II students perfected their pronunciation and intonation as they memorized and recited the poem, Le Cancre, by the beloved French poet, Jacques Prévert. French IV students have been expanding their vocabulary and

Spanish 2H has been describing their childhood. Spanish 2CP is describing their holiday traditions. Spanish 1CP is learning about Christmas traditions in Spanish-speaking countries.



The Madrigals at the Old English Feast!



Athletics Connection

The winter athletic season is underway with all our teams being competitive as they begin their conference and independent contests. The student Council conducted a spirited pep rally on December 9th with Dr. Plotts leading the crowd to raucous cheers.

Distinguished Service Award at the 47th Annual National Athletic Directors Conference in Nashville Tennessee at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center. This award is presented to the top 10 Athletic Directors in the nation. Congratulations to John on this outstanding award!!!

As the winter presents being indoors it would be a great time to attend a wrestling match, basketball game, bowling match, skiing meet, a swimming meet,



John DiColo recognized as a NJSIAAA top 10 National Athletic Director of the Year!



Dr. Tierney, Mr. DiColo & Dr. Plotts

School Connections: DECA

The DECA Team held our annual food drive in November for the Thanksgiving holiday. We collected 2100 food items and over \$500 over a weekend at the Acme in Oak Ridge. We packed boxes for 30 families (with \$15 gift cards) and sent 1650 items to the New Hope Food Pantry in Oak Ridge. We were also able to provide the Food Pantry with an

additional 20 gift cards. The New Hope Food Pantry feeds fifty families and one hundred twenty five people twice per month.

As a side note, we have a group of students that are writing a 30 page paper to be judged and recognized at the DECA State Leadership Conference for Community Service.



DECA students prepare for the food drop!



DECA food donations line the hallways

Madrigal Connections



The Madrigal Singers performing at JTHS!

Fine and Studio Art, Related Arts & Social Studies

The Student Council this year raised enough money to build a kitchen for a school in Kenya. Chief Joseph visited with our students last month and identified the kitchen as an immediate need for his people. Our students responded by raising \$1,500.00 for Chief Joseph's village.

Robotics & Engineering:

Our Robotics and Engineering students enjoyed a presentation given by Doug Wong an Engineer from Picatinny Arsenal. Mr. Wong provided the students with a demonstration of his robot which is used by the US Army in combat. In addition, he spent time with members of our Robotics team. We hope to further build our relationship between our programs and Picatinny Arsenal.

Language Arts & Media Curriculum Connections

Marking Period 2 is well underway and winter break is right around the corner. Students are exploring new literature including but not limited to, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Frankenstein*, and *Dante's Inferno*. Additionally, the students are also being exposed to informational pieces such as Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Nature*, and *Self Reliance*. They are reading across these texts to analyze themes such as social injustice, empathy, altruism, and humility.

This month, Mr. Barbato ran a week of writing workshops with his classes to enhance their written responses to literature. Students engaged in five mini lessons specifically designed to target strategic writing approaches to help them refine their writing process. Ms. Daken's class analyzed *Dante's Inferno* by creating their own assignment. Some of the projects the students conceived included podcasts and individual artistic interpretations of their own circle. Additionally, the Media Studies students wrote, and produced their own children's television programs. They were very professional and truly impressive. Finally, join us in congratulating four of our ELA teachers who were named the most influential teachers by the class of 2017, Steve Barbato, Alice Daken, Sonja Gutwerk, and Cara Schwimer.

Special Connections: How the Avengers Save Christmas!

Recently JTHS was proud to have an in-house play written and performed by one of our own. Jordan Walthers, a current student at JTHS, wrote and starred in his play called "How the Avengers Save Christmas!" Jordan, has written many plays and was eager to have Mrs. Schwimer, our drama teacher, read his script and perform his play as our fall drama. After some time, Mrs. Schwimer read his script and agreed to fulfill his dream of having his play performed on the big stage at JTHS. The play would not be our fall drama but was in addition to our fall drama.

The auditorium was loaded with family, friends, students, staff and administration who eagerly awaited to see Jordan's play performed live. With the assistance and direction of Mrs. Schwimer and many talented students, "How the Avenger's Save Christmas" was performed. All the students stood out in their performances but Jordan was the star of the show. Having performed the play, Jordan took time to thank his family and the many people who helped make his dream come true. Professional posters and tickets were made for his performance. Many students asked for Jordan to autograph their tickets after the show highlighting the experience.

Having moments like this are what make the world of education truly great!



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Ashley Hutchinson

**Were on the web! Visit us at
www.jefftwp.org, follow us on
Twitter @jthsfalcons, & like us**

Ashley Hutchinson Displays Student Success at JTHS!

Article By: Amanda Ventre, Junior Student

Ashley Hutchinson is a current senior and is striving to be chosen for The Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarship. This is a program in which high school seniors are recognized for their leadership, service and commitment to making an impact on their school and community. These scholars have refreshed the world in some way, making for a better society. The 150 final scholars selected each year receive a \$20,000 scholarship.

This year there were about 87,000 applicants from around the country applying for this scholarship. Out of these students, only about 2,000 were selected as semi-finalists, 35 of them from New Jersey, to continue the selection process. As the only finalist from Oak Ridge, Hutchinson now has to complete the semi-finalist applications and receive teacher recommendations that will be reviewed by the Coca-Cola Committee in January. From there, 250 will advance as regional finalists and then a total of 150 individuals will become Coca-Cola Scholars. JTHS wishes Hutchinson good luck in her future!

Exceptional Connection

English 10

Students in Ms. Seader's English class created a Utopian society where they composed speeches to persuade citizens to join, posters to advertise, maps to show points of interest, and gave a speech (as a president) to their peers.

Transition Ed

The Transition class participated in two college tours: Berkeley College and County College of Morris. Students were exploring different career options and looking at the best fit for their needs and interests. They met with admissions, students at the campus, professors, etc. They have also had Lincoln Tech come in to do a presentation. The classes (Transition

and Career Ed) still have Team Building Thursdays to help students work together effectively as a team, to increase motivation, and promote cooperation.

Mrs. Vanderbok's Class

During the Election, students held a mock vote for President, choosing between Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman. They asked one hundred students and faculty members and found that Superman was the number one choice, beating Batman by only four votes. They also did a blind taste test on brands of chocolate chip cookies.

The class was recently given all the unclaimed clothes from the Boy's locker room. They sorted the clothes and took the majority of them to the Laundromat to wash and fold. From there, they brought the clothes to the thrift store to be sold.

