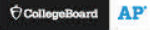




Jefferson Township High School Newsletter

Jefferson Pride

8th Annual AP District Honor Roll Recipient



JTHS Happenings:

- Jefferson Idol
- Mid-Winter Band Concert
- French & Spanish Club Olympics
- Wellness Week
- Service Night
- Science NHS Career Night

Jefferson Idol:



Jefferson Idol Lindsey Tarsitano

On February 2nd JTHS hosted the 12th Annual 'Jefferson Idol.' Those in attendance were entertained by a panel of celebrity faculty judges, a live professional band, backup singers, and even some dancers.



Student Performers await the results.

JTHS Celebrates Wellness Week:

JTHS celebrated wellness week the week of February 12th. This is a week when we focus on maintaining healthy practices. Each day there were tables set up in the cafeteria with information on health and wellness. Physical fitness classes focused on physical and mental health with yoga, meditation, and physical training with the marines. Positivity post-its were placed throughout the building. Students were also offered a wellness tip of the day on Good Morning Jefferson.



JTHS Cafeteria Staff serve healthy Shakes during lunches



The JTHS Ski team once again helped out in the Special Olympics at Mt. Creek on 2/5. Skiers Kaleb Williams, Matthew Sinchi, Max Balogh, Zac Quintana, Elijah Quintana, Jared Bilyk, Justin Palus, & Amber Whitman were all on hand to assist.



One-To-One Laptop Initiative Complete

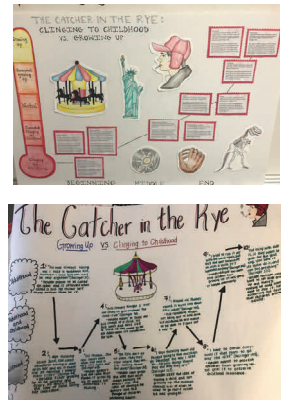
JTHS is pleased to announce that the One-to-One laptop initiative is complete. Students in grades 9-11 were all given Thinkpad Laptops. As we strive to make our students more globally competitive and advanced in a 21st-century environment, having laptops at school and also being allowed to take the laptops home will only improve communication and student achievement as we continue to use and foster the Google Classroom. Thank you to the Technology Department, Students and staff for making this a smooth process.

Science Connections: Mr. Hiben

Around the department students are immersed in various topics. In Earth Science students are exploring plate tectonics, in Biology students are studying genetics and evolution, in Chemistry students are learning about the mole concept and gas laws, and in Physics students are applying knowledge about circular and rotational motion. Despite the very different topics, common threads permeate all of our courses. Students use the same practices and cross cutting concepts to explore phenomena, thus giving the needed skills to match their content knowledge. Students argue from evidence, make models to explain concepts, analyze data, look for patterns, think about phenomena in terms of the systems involved and determine cause and effect relationships to name a few. This has made our courses more rigorous and will better prepare our students for the challenges that they will encounter in the future.

Language Arts & Media Curriculum Connections: *Ms. Russo*

All sophomores are reading and analyzing *The Catcher in the Rye*. The students are completing Fever Charts of Holden, where they analyze a chosen character theory from the novel and plot their textual evidence on a line graph. The purpose of a fever chart is to demonstrate a close reading analysis of a text. The students track a character's psychological state through a novel, using their own scales on the x- and y-axis. The goal is to determine the changes in character and what happens to a character as these changes occur. They use quotations and proper citations to prove these claims. A detailed fever chart will allow students to draw conclusions about the complexity of a character. The projects are collaborative and the students will present their findings to the class.



Student Catcher in the Rye Projects

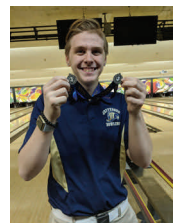
Exceptional Connection: *Mr. Rebholz*

Mrs. Ciaraffo's Math classes have been exploring some of the technology-based programs provided by Denis Sheeren during their five minute warm ups. Her Math of Finance classes will be working on a checking project that involves keeping a paper-based ledger, as well as online options. The goal is for her students to understand the banking process and ultimately create a large budget. The Life Skills History class has been learning about The Great Depression. After learning about Hoovervilles, the students worked together to make a replica of a Hooverville shack using cardboard and duct tape. They are now working on a multimedia project about Eleanor Roosevelt and her major contributions to our country. Mrs. VanderBok's life skills class has been making and selling dog biscuits to faculty and staff. Now they have upped their game by making special holiday themed dog biscuits. Their heart shaped Valentine biscuits were extremely popular. They have already purchased St. Patrick's Day cookie cutters and will start making those biscuits in the near future.

Athletics Connection: *Fly, Falcons, Fly by Mr. Koch*

As the Spring season approaches the Winter season grinds on with several of our programs finding success during Conference, Group and State competition.

- Bowling locked in NJAC honors with Nick Theis and Emma Theis on the First-Team and Nick Smeilus grabbing Honorable Mention.
- The Boys Ski team qualified for the State Meets putting an end to a drought and will compete from 2/27 through 3/1.
- The Girls Swim team continued to knock down records. By seasons end they competed in the State Tournament completing an upset in the first round and establishing 5 new records for our board.
- Wrestling completed a solid run through Sectionals winning a home bout against Glen Rock, going away and upsetting Newton but falling short in the Sectional Final against High Point. These young men then competed in the District tournament and qualified 11 to the Region 1 tournament this past weekend in West Milford. Shane Connolly qualified for the NJSIAA State Tournament in Atlantic City which begins this Friday, 3/2.
- Basketball continues a historic season as both the boys and girls locked up NJAC American Division titles. The girls team went deep into the Morris County Tournament again this season but fell to Morristown in the Semi-Finals. Taylor Langan continues to knock down shots as her career points total is now above 1,500. Both Taylor and Steve Breeman will display their talents at the 40th Annual NJ All-Star North-South Basketball Classic on March, 17th. Both squads won their opening round match up in the Group tournament and look to continue to roll with another double-header at home on Thursday, 3/2.



Nick Theis



Sam Iverson & Amy Segond, Swim Team Record Breakers

Our Athletes are not the only ones doing great things but so are our coaches. James MacDermid (Girls Basketball), Matt Moscatello (Wrestling) and Joe DiGennaro (Boys Basketball) all compiled milestones and accumulated career victories 100, 200, and 300, respectively.

#FalconPride

Business Department Connection: *Ms. Villa*

Business: Personal Finance classes have started the nation-wide H&R Block Budget Challenge simulation. Students will learn how to pay bills, manage expenses, save money, invest in retirement and pay taxes as if they were recent college graduates. The top five students who demonstrate they are the most “real-world ready” at the conclusion of each semester will receive a \$20,000 college scholarship.

Media: Mrs. Brown used Plickers to review for an assessment in her AP psychology classes. "Plickers is a powerfully simple tool that lets teachers collect real-time formative assessment data without the need for student devices (<https://www.plickers.com/>)." Mrs. Brown created a bank of 30+ questions with multiple choice answers. QR codes are generated which identifies each student's response allows students to choose A, B, C, or D depending on which way they hold the code Teacher selects a question to display on the screen. Students then decide which answer is correct and hold their code accordingly, while teacher scans each students "response." Answers are collected and revealed on the screen: either the number right and wrong, or students' individual responses - teacher and/or students decide how to view responses. Mrs. Brown downloaded the app to her iPad, created the bank of questions, etc. and used the iPad to scan each student's response.

World Language, ESL and Music Connection: *Mr. Sica*



JTHS & JTMS Students joined together for the Mid-Winter Band Concert on February 13th.

The French 3 Honors students just completed an outstanding unique project, where they created imaginary schools. They had to create a set of rules exclusive to their schools while using the subjunctive verb formation.

The French and Spanish clubs joined together to play "Winter Games" in the true Olympic spirit. Curling, marshmallow toss and Hungry Hungry Hippos were among the favorites. It was a lot of fun.



Students from the French & Spanish clubs joined forces to hold the first annual JTHS Olympics on Feb. 15th.

Unified Track:



2017-18 Unified Track Team

JTHS is proud to once again be offering the Unified Track Team. In partnership with Special Olympics New Jersey, we are establishing an inclusive interscholastic athletic program using the Unified Sports model that Special Olympics pioneered. Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team, promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. The team will have their final meet on May 24th.



New History Elective : *Mr. Boyle*

Sports in American Culture is an American history elective created and taught by Mr. Boyle which follows athletics from 1800 through modern day. Often times history classes strictly follow politics and wars while social history is left on the back burner. This class shows how sports have influenced the history we know today. From Jackie Robinson's baseball career to the Miracle on Ice during the Cold War, students will see how the sports they love have changed history in their communities and around the world. Students will watch film, create their own sports, and debate cultural and social issues in this brand new class. See your guidance counselor to sign up for next year.



Not Your Average Hockey Game

By: Tyler Delp

Peter Fifoot, a Jefferson Township High School senior donning a JTHS Varsity jacket and I with my notepad walk through the empty school halls to the quiet comfort of the media center. He seems very excited to start this interview. I always knew Fifoot had a passion for sports, but I did not think it would amount to the commitment he has of pursuing a career as a sports broadcaster. Now on February 12th, I get the pleasure of interviewing a longtime classmate of mine to talk about a remarkable day he had with the New Jersey Devils, made possible by the Washington Capitals.

Ever since Peter was interviewed by NBC Sports Washington during the pregame Capitals show on November 10, 2017, he became an instant hit. With more than one hundred thousand views in the first week of his video release, Fifoot became a fan favorite. When asked if he thought the video would take him this far, Fifoot stated, "No, not at all. I wanted to make an impression, and sound knowledgeable."

Since Peter was an instant hit at NBC Sports Washington, the Capitals decided to reach out and invite Fifoot to an early morning skate around session with the Capitals in Washington, where he would be able to interview any player. Fifoot and his family decided to decline the opportunity due to not being able to miss many school days and not wanting to miss cross country practice. "It was really awesome [when contacted by the Capitals]... I was hoping that they would contact me again." Luckily, the Capitals called back to try and give Peter another shot, this time in New Jersey when the Capitals played the Devils on January 18, 2018. Fifoot was scheduled to go to the Prudential Center early in the morning to experience the behind the scenes action of everything that goes on at professional hockey games and attend the Capitals vs. Devils game at night.

As Fifoot was heading to The Rock to watch the early skate around session, he was not one hundred percent sure of what to expect. "I was not nervous; I was excited," Fifoot said.

Once Fifoot arrived, he was given a tour of the Prudential Center, from the locker rooms to the truck that controls all of the TV camera angles. But as an aspiring sports broadcaster, he was immediately in love with the broadcast booth. Coming from inside the broadcast booth was a voice Fifoot had been hearing almost daily for the past ten years; awaiting there was Joe Beninati, the play by play announcer for the Washington Capitals. "I tried to conceal [being star struck] to seem professional," Fifoot said. While up in the booth, Joe Beninati gave Fifoot some tips and advice on the industry. "There are many career options in the industry, try and keep your options open," Beninati said. Beninati invited Fifoot to sit up in the broadcast booth and watch the game as a professional broadcaster.

"The game was pretty epic...I was not able to go crazy because I was up in the booth," Fifoot said. The game ended in a 4-3 Devils victory with a game winning goal in overtime from Taylor Hall.

This trip was everything a young, passionate sports broadcaster would want, from being in the booth to going on the truck and meeting the players. The trip was "pretty amazing... it defined that this is the career I want," Fifoot said with a passion for sports broadcasting burning in his eyes. Fifoot is more motivated than ever to achieve his goals. Who knows? Someday, we may hear Fifoot's voice booming out over the crowd at a professional hockey game.

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Peter Fifoot (Photo: Danielle Parhizkaran/NorthJersey.com)

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



Ryan Schmidt, James Knapik, and Patrick Flynn were selected to attend the All State festival in New Brunswick which culminates on Saturday with a performance at NJPAC in Newark. Please congratulate these talented student musicians when you see them.