



## Jefferson Township High School Newsletter

# Jefferson Pride

## JTHS Happenings:

- Return of Graduates
- 8th Grade Parent Orientation
- J-Town Thinks They can Dance
- CCM Instant Decision
- Blood Drive

## JTHS Hosts Elective & AP Fair:

The first ever Jefferson Township High School Elective and AP Fair was held on Monday, January 8th in the auxiliary gym during all three lunches. Information, artifacts, handouts, and representatives were present for all elective and AP classes offered at the high school. The purpose of this program was to give the students an opportunity to learn more about elective classes and AP classes offered at JTHS before selecting their classes for the 2018-2019 school year.



## JTHS Dunks for Disabilities:

JTHS hosted the Department For Persons With Disabilities Annual Basketball Game against Sparta. For those who do not know, each year there is a chance for four lucky fans to buy a raffle ticket and be selected for a \$10,000 shot. On Friday night during the half-time \$10,000 shot competition Justin Brennan, a student from Whippany Park High School, hit a layup, foul shout, 3 pointer, and the half-court shot to win the \$10,000. Needless to say, the gym that was packed to capacity erupted for the young man and a great time was had by all our honored attendees from the Department of Persons With Disabilities. Thank you to all those who were in attendance.



*Athletic Director William Koch with the Lucky Winner*

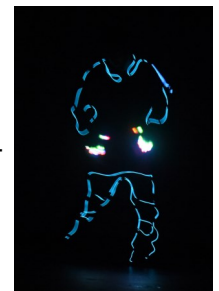


*Congratulations to Ryan Schmidt, James Knapik, and Patrick Flynn for their acceptance into the New Jersey All-State Band as a result of auditions at JP Stevens High School in Edison. We believe this is the first time that JTHS has had 3 students make the All-State Band.*

## J-Town Thinks They can Dance: Mrs. Alkon

The Jefferson dancing community truly shined on Friday, January 12th when the JTHS Dance Club hosted the 3rd annual J-Town Thinks They Can Dance competition. This fun night was coordinated by the JTHS Dance Club advisor, Kayla Alkon, who was thrilled to bring her passion for dance to life through this event. Performers included students from the elementary, middle, and high schools. Jefferson's very own teachers, counselors, and alumni also hit the stage. Seniors Cara Langner and April Jarosz hosted the dance competition and brought a thoroughly entertaining energy.

Teachers, Mrs. Schwimer and Mrs. Ajaj, as well as K-12 Department Supervisor, Mr. Sica, served as judges. They offered constructive criticism, enthusiasm, and were truly moved by some routines. With so much talent the judges made the difficult decisions of who the winners were for each category. Earning the high school title was Britney Ajaj, Sharon Martin, Kim Neuschatz, Kaya Snow, and Lily Snow. Mr. Gaydos was the winning teacher act with his performance which included theatrics and an impressive glow in the dark costume. J-Town Thinks They Can Dance truly brought together the district through the power of dance.



*Mr. Gaydos in his glow in the dark costume*

## Language Arts & Media Curriculum Connections: *Mrs. Maxwell*

The AP Literature, AP Language, and Senior Honors students took a trip to the Newark Museum on Wednesday, December 20. During this trip, they visited the historic Ballantine House, which was dressed up for a Victorian Christmas, the Tibetan Buddhist Altar, and numerous works of art. These exhibits connect to curricular studies, including Siddhartha, Jane Eyre, and A Doll's House.



*Students at the Newark Museum*

## Science Connections: *Ms. Beshlian*

It was that time of year again when students entered the Star Lab to observe different phenomena that occur in our night sky. The star lab is a portable planetarium that uses a high definition projector to present the various constellations that can be viewed in real time at any location on Earth. Students in Mr. Bruseo, Mrs. Kirshenbaum, and Ms. Beshlian's Earth Science classes entered the lab on January 9th through January 11th to discuss topics in Astronomy. Classes began by identifying the patterns of stars in the constellations that could be observed in the night sky. Students also discussed the concept of light pollution since many of the stars viewed in the lab are not totally visible when students look outside. Finally, the classes concluded by discussing the seasons that occur on Earth by comparing the angle of the sun during the summer and winter solstices. Congratulations to our Science League team members. In the competition at JTHS, Jefferson teams came in first place for Area 1 for Biology 1, Biology 2, Chemistry 1, Physics 1, Physics 2, and Earth Science. Next month, they will compete at Newton high school.

## Athletics Connection: *William Koch*

The winter athletic season has been heating up. It has seen milestones accomplished and a decades-long school record shattered.

- Boys basketball's Steve Breeman scored his 1,000th career point in their holiday tournament vs Hanover Park. He will lead the boys team into the MCT next week as the Falcons hold the 5th seed.
- Girls basketball, led by Taylor Langan a McDonald's All-American Nominee, enters the upcoming MCT as the 5th seed and currently hold a 10 and 3 record after rattling off 9 W's in a row.
- The Girls and Boys Basketball teams stepped up in the annual Dunks for Disability game as the Falcons Swept Sparta on the night while a Whippany Park Student won the progressive shot challenge and \$10,000!!!
- Winter Track's Qunicy Jones took out another school record with a time of 6.82s in the 55 meter sprint and then broke it again with a time of 6.74s. Sophomore Stephanie Nwankwo and senior Alicia Boucher combined to win the Morris County shot put relay.
- Wrestling's Shane Connolly pinned down his 100th career win vs Kittatinny and was a catalyst to Jefferson's first win over the Sussex County power in over a decade.
- Swimming has been flying in the pool and continue to improve on their marks. Samantha Iversen, Lea Mazzacano, Jordan Herman and Amy Segond teamed up to break the 400 Free Relay record with a time of 4:01.11 on Senior Night.
- Emma Thies at the Morris County Bowling Tournament captured both the Girls high game with 233 as well as the Girls high series with 586 helping advance JT to the Semifinals for the first time in school history.
- Falcon alumni continue to make us proud. Imani Brown (Women's Basketball) scored her 1,000 career point while playing for East Stroudsburg University and has been named PSAC East athlete of the week for the 3rd time this season while Dan Vallimont (Wrestling) took home the gold at the Guelph Open at 74kg in Canada.



*Steven Breeman*



*Shane Connolly*

## Business Department Connection: *Ms. Villa*

### Business News:

Students in Basic Coding & Web Design created websites for a A to Z embroidery , a photography portfolio and one for DECA and FBLA. The students participated in a Shark Tank Simulation for their final project. Several JTHS alumni came back to participate in the AP/Elective fair. The final project for Sports & Entertainment class is creating a business for after prom safe activities for high schools.

**Media News:** Mr. Thompson's Criminal Justice class did a mock trial with information from this website:

<https://njsbf.org/school-based-programs/mock-trial/high-school-mock-trial-competition/>

There were 2 trials, homicide claiming self-defense and death by overdose of heroine/fentanyl.

All students were assigned roles, each used their research (laptops) to follow/participate in the cases.

The two forensics classes researched the science of entomology to determine how long a body had been dead. Specific decomposing insects appear on dead bodies and time of death can be determined by the stage of development of these insects. The students then created citations and NOTECARDS in NoodleTools to close read, paraphrase, link sources to information and prepare presentations. Students were able to export the notecards from NoodleTools to use while they presented.

## World Language, ESL and Music Connection:

Spanish 4CP and Spanish 4H are working on a project about the "indigenous cultures in Spanish Speaking Countries", last week they read about "The Mayan Culture" and they have to do a PowerPoint presentation about their inventions and why they were important to our communities. AP Spanish will write a persuasive essay and will complete interpersonal speaking activities and will do a project about " Beauty and Aesthetics".

## Project Stay Gold : *Mr. Thompson*

On Thursday, January 25, 2018, the members of the Jefferson Township High School chapter of Project Stay Gold traveled to Scotch Plains-Fanwood High school to deliver a poignant message surrounding Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery. Project Stay Gold is a student-led after school club whose sole focus is to educate local communities about the epidemic that is Modern Day Slavery. The members of Project Stay Gold think of themselves as modern-day abolitionists who advocate on behalf of the 27-30 million people worldwide who are estimated to be enslaved by Human Trafficking. Last Thursday, PSG was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to deliver their message to the entire Junior class of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The members of Project Stay Gold were accompanied on the trip by Social Studies Supervisor and PSG Founder, Danny Papa, and current Advisor Marcus Thompson.

Project Stay Gold's presentation included meaningful statistics and facts surrounding Human Trafficking, including how prevalent the crime is here in New Jersey. The presentation also included the warning signs as well as points on how to spot potential traffickers. Members discussed the societal acceptance popular music which promotes "trafficking-like" language in its lyrics. "After all of the nerves were gone, the members were excited to deliver this important message in a hope to save people's lives.", explained Sydney Burek, a JTHS sophomore and member of Project Stay Gold. The trip concluded with a meeting between Scotch Plains-Fanwood Junior class officials and members of project Stay Gold. Alivia Catania, a JTHS sophomore states, "This trip has impacted me for the better because spreading the word about something I'm so passionate about humbles me."



*Project Stay Gold Members*

## School Connections : *Athletic Department DAANJ Award*



Congratulations to the Athletic Department on being awarded the prestigious Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey DAANJ PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE AWARD!!!! This award is given to athletic programs of excellence that meet the rigorous requirements of the state of New Jersey. Jefferson's core belief and focus on education-based athletics is second to none. This is more proof that we as a learning community are continuously improving the total school program at JTHS. I would like to thank all of the committee members who worked toward achieving this recognition.

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Red Cross Club Members

**Were on the web! Visit us at [www.jefftwp.org](http://www.jefftwp.org), follow us on Twitter @jthsfalcons, & like us on Facebook**

### Red Cross Club Blood Drive

By Joshua Dyl

*On Friday, January 26, the Jefferson Township High School American Red Cross Club hosted a blood drive.*

*The blood drive was a huge success, with donations from the students and staff. The previous blood drive, which was hosted back in October, was able to collect 32 blood donations, but at the most recent blood drive, the Red Cross Club was able to collect 44 donations.*

*Prior to donating blood, donors are advised to eat an iron-rich diet, exercise, and drink plenty of water. If the iron levels are suitable for donation to occur, the donors will then do a questionnaire that involves various personal questions, but it is only to ensure that the blood an individual is willing to donate is safe to infuse into another person.*

*Once the donation process is completed, which takes anywhere from 10-25 minutes, the donor may feel light headed, dizzy, or even nauseous. To help with these symptoms, donors are to eat sugary foods to replenish the sugar lost during donation. The Red Cross members graciously donated various desserts and drinks for donors to enjoy after donating. As an incentive for donating blood, the individuals were given pizza and a five dollar Dunkin' Donuts gift card.*

*The next blood drive is expected occur in the spring. The Red Cross is hoping for more donors to donate, because each donation saves three lives. The people receiving the blood are forever thankful that someone was willing to donate their blood, and the giver is forever moved by the kind action they took to save a life. If you are looking for a good deed to do, please donate blood to the American Red Cross. You truly do make a difference in someone's life.*

### Exceptional Connection: Mr. Rebholz

Mrs. Ciaraffo's Math classes are busy working with technology to enhance concepts. The Geometry class has been using Youtube and Nearpod tutorials that highlight conjectures and counterexamples. They have made the correlation between science and math as conjectures are made in the scientific process. The Math of Finance class is embarking on a simulation of checking. The students will review paper and pencil checkbooks as well as online checking.

This month the 18-21-year-old program met with the dietitian at ShopRite in Wharton to learn about healthy eating choices and created their own healthy food choices. The group participated in Yoga sessions with their very own instructor. They took a trip to The Hilton Garden Inn to reinforce life skills by cleaning a hotel room that they enjoyed making messy! The students had to clean the bathroom countertops/shower, iron clothes, make the bed as well as clean the windows to generalize their daily living skills. Our Middle School and High School classes also met with the dietitian at ShopRite and participated in a Food Shopping Scavenger Hunt that was followed by creating their own healthy snack while learning about healthy eating choices.

This month the Career classes have been hard at work learning about social media and the effects it has on today's society. In addition, the Career Exploration class has created different anti-cyberbullying posters to inform others about the issue, and to inspire them to be upstanders. The seniors in the Transition Education classes have just finished an interview unit. During this time, students learned how to prepare during all stages of an interview, and completed a mock interview with Mr. Rebholz. This unit has helped students develop the skills necessary for interview success!

Mrs. Vanderbok's Science Class has been learning about changes in matter, mixtures and solutions. They have been making some interesting mixtures and solutions in class. They made Oobleck, Slime, crystals and some great edible concoctions such as cookies, hot chocolate and ice cream!



Unified Track Students Join Dr. Plotts for J-Town Thinks They can Dance