

Renaissance

Adult Education Classes Offered

**Registration Begins
January 20, 2004**

The Winter Semester 2004 Adult Education Classes of the Jamestown Public Schools will begin the week of February 2nd, 2004. Registration will be held Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, beginning on Tuesday, January 20th, at the Adult Education Office of Jamestown High School and will continue through the week of February 2nd. You may also call the Adult Education Office at 483-4384 to register by phone.

There are a wide variety of classes offered for the Winter Term including Introduction to Microsoft Word, Introduction to Power Point, Excel 2000, Beginning Keyboarding, Beginning Conversational Spanish, Decoy/Bird Carving, Woodworking, Floral Arranging, Knitting and Crocheting, and Beginning Acrylic Painting. Please contact the Adult Education Office at 483-4384 for a full course listing or for more information.

Also, the following continuing classes are offered by the Adult Education Program of Jamestown Public Schools:

- **Adult Basic Education**-Improve reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic
- **English as a Second Language**-Learn to speak, read and write English
- **High School Equivalency (GED) Preparation**
- **Adult High School Credit Course**-to obtain High School Diploma

These classes are offered at no charge, and you may register at any time. (Books must be purchased for the Adult High School Credit Course Program.) For further information, please call the Adult Education Office at 483-4384.

Testing, Holidays & Important Dates	
January 12-16, 2004	Grade 8 ELA Test
January 19, 2004	Martin Luther King Day - No School
January 20-23, 2004	Grade 8 Science Performance Test
January 26-29, 2004	Regents Week
February 2-6, 2004	Grade 4 ELA Test
February 16-20, 2004	Mid-Winter Recess

Upcoming School Board Meetings

January 13, 2004	Washington Middle School
January 20, 2004	Work Session - Administration Bldg
January 27, 2004	Administration Bldg
February 10, 2004	Administration Bldg
February 24, 2004	Persell Middle School

ALL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:00 PM. THE HOST SCHOOL FOR THE MEETING WILL PRESENT A REPORT.

Chautauqua Striders Offers Tutoring At JHS

Tuesday	3 - 5 p.m. and 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday	3 - 5 p.m.
Thursday	3 - 5 p.m and 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Chautauqua Striders on the Second Floor of the Jamestown YMCA.
Call Leah Gustafson at 488-2203 ext. 223 to register.



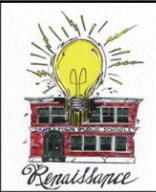
Roger School fourth graders in Cathy Maloney's class raised \$200 from completing family chores, saving their extra lunch and snack money, and donations from parent instead of a teacher gift for a needy family. The students went to Wal-Mart and broke up in small groups to buy gifts for the different members of the family with lists of their needs and wishes. Wal-Mart also donated a \$15 gift certificate to the cause.

Important Information for Middle & High School Parents

According to the Commissioner's Regulations and Regents Policy, all secondary schools are expected to incorporate the HIV/AIDS instructional program into the required health education program. No student can be required to receive instruction concerning the methods of prevention of HIV/AIDS if the parent or legal guardian of the student wishes to exempt him/her from that portion of HIV/AIDS instruction. To qualify for an exemption, the parent or legal guardian must file with the school principal a written request for an exemption and assure that the student will receive this instruction at home.

Jamestown Board of Education 2003~2004

- Joseph Pawelski, President
- Nancy Knee, Vice President
- Laurel Lucas, Deann Nelson, Thomas Pope, Christine Schnars, Timothy Thomas



The Jamestown City School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, veteran or marital status, political affiliation, race, creed or religion, color, national origin, or disability in the employment and educational opportunities it offers, including vocational opportunities, school services and extracurricular events as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Grievance procedures are established to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints pertaining to discrimination.

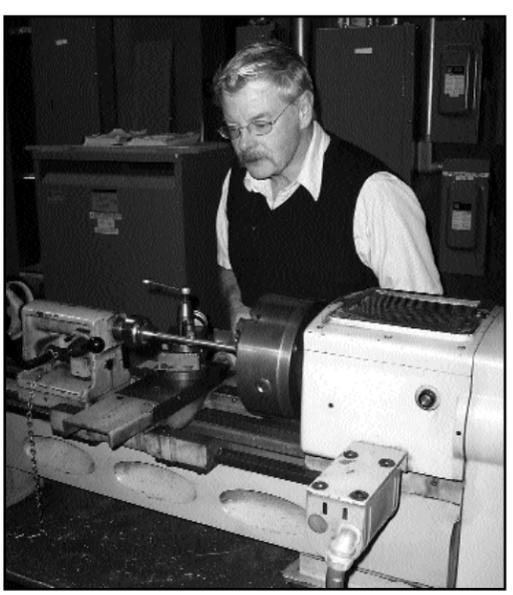
District 504 Coordinator: Sheryl Johnson
District Title IX Coordinator: Karen Peterson

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VOL.4 ISSUE 3 "REVITALIZING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS" JAN • FEB 2004

Buildings & Grounds Department Takes Care of 1.8 Million Square Feet of Space



Ed Holmes, a member of the maintenance department and mechanic works on a lathe to repair door parts

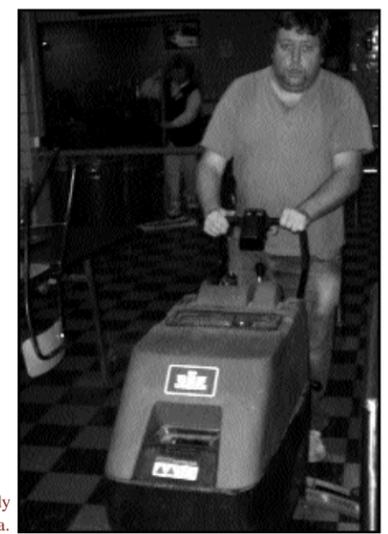
Who takes care of the 1.8 million square feet of educational space in the Jamestown Schools? The Building and Grounds Department, which consists of 77 employees, makes sure that every piece of Jamestown School property, both inside and outside, is cleaned and maintained.

"Everyday, we do the best that we can to make sure that every building is cleaned and maintained and ready for the students and staff," said Gary DeLellis, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

The department has both custodial and maintenance workers with many skilled tradesmen. The department processes over 2,000 work orders a year, which can include anything from plumbing problems, wiring a building for technology, and setting up for sporting and musical events. The department also takes care of the snow plowing in the winter and mowing lawns in the summer. They maintain Strider Field and the new sports fields, which adds up to approximately 400 acres of grass.

Custodial workers clean every classroom every day by emptying trash cans, dusting, cleaning desktops and floors. They clean school restrooms and take care of emergency clean-up problems, such as kids getting sick or hallway spills. They also clean the cafeteria after breakfast and lunch. Custodial staff also takes care of the sidewalks and steps around their school. The custodial staff is also on the school's emergency response teams as they have intimate knowledge of their school's layout and equipment.

The maintenance staff all has a journeyman-type skill in a trade such as electrical, plumbing, and carpentry. They know how to repair HVAC systems, wire a building, fix an electrical problem and repair a broken pipe just to name a few of their talents. Their expertise also has been helpful during the extensive renovations done at each school through the \$74.9 million building project updates.



JHS Custodial staff member, Andy Field, cleans in the cafeteria.

MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT Raymond Fashano

As we enter 2004, I wish each of you a Happy New Year. We have much to be thankful for, including the fact that our economy seems to be turning in a positive direction. This will eventually mean jobs for many in our community who are unemployed. At the same time, we are still experiencing the effects of a very difficult budget. As you will remember last year, we lost approximately 80-85 jobs in our school system. The remaining employees have stepped up to the plate to help with these gaps in the programs lost. Unfortunately, I don't believe that the next budget for 2004-05 will be much better. New York State is looking at a \$5-\$6 billion shortfall in revenue. The Governor and legislative leaders have stated no new taxes. But, New York State has raised our Employee and Teacher Retirement Systems rates of contribution significantly. Negotiations with five of our unions will take place this year. So far, in two of these negotiations, we have gone to mediation services through PERB (Public Employee Relations Board) to attempt to reach fair and equitable settlements. Please remember that we are experiencing teacher/administrative shortages in many critical areas such as foreign language, math, science, and special education. When negotiating, attempts are made to remain competitive while at the same time keeping the tax impact of that settlement in mind.

Let me talk a little about the school calendar with you. My goal, as an educator, is to educate all students to the fullest extent that we can afford. When a regional calendar is developed, it is developed so that schools can share services and therefore help reduce

See Superintendent page 6

Science Teachers Learn About the Stars



Lisa Beckerink, Nancy Feenstra, Pam Rodriguez, Cindy Bolling, Eric Bolling, Tari Geisler, Mike Chitester, Lorraine Florczyk (BOCES Rep) in front of a STARLAB.

On December 11th a group of scientifically enthusiastic teachers participated in a STARLAB training sponsored by BOCES. Teachers were introduced to the Classroom-size Portable Planetarium by Billie Leveson (Bemus Point Central) and Lorraine Florczyk (Erie 2 BOCES Rep). The Planetarium inflates with a simple fan and children crawl through a tunnel to view the many different lessons. Lessons are projected onto the interior walls of the Planetarium where they rotate to depict the different movements of our celestial bodies. Other lessons include: Biological Cell, Native American Constellations, Greek Mythological Constellations, Season Skies, and Lewis and Clark. Our teachers were excited to take this technology back to their students and integrate it into their classrooms.

Ben Drake Named New Athletic Director

The Jamestown Public School District announces the appointment of Ben Drake to the position of Athletic Director. Mr. Drake, who is currently an assistant principal at Jamestown High School, is also a 1990 graduate of JHS.

"Ben Drake is an excellent person to fill this important position in the Jamestown School District. He is home grown and knows what the expectations are for a top-notch athletic program," said Jamestown School Superintendent, Ray Fashano. "He is filling big shoes after Wally Huckno, but in my opinion he is the right candidate for the job. I have worked with Ben in his role as an athletic administrator before and he did a fine job. He now has four more years of administrative experience to carry on the fine traditions that have been developed in Jamestown. We are very happy to have him in our school system."

Mr. Drake received both his undergraduate degree in physical education and his master's degree in athletic administration from SUNY Brockport where he was an Academic All-American basketball player and graduate assistant basketball coach. He also holds a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration. In 1997, Mr. Drake became the Director of Athletics and Physical Education at Keshequa Central Schools. Mr. Drake returned to Jamestown in 1998 as a physical education teacher. In 2000, he was appointed as an assistant principal at Jamestown High School.

Mr. Drake has also been the head coach of the JHS Varsity Boys' Basketball team for six years. The team has won five straight league and one sectional championship under his leadership.



"I am very excited about this opportunity to lead our athletic department into the future," said Mr. Drake. "I have trained and prepared my entire life for this opportunity and I can't wait to begin. Our previous Athletic Director, Wally Huckno, has been a great leader and we will truly miss him. I hope to carry on the many positive accomplishments that he started in Jamestown. I believe in the educational value of athletics and in Jamestown Red Raider Pride, which begins with our athletic teams and permeates throughout our entire school and community. We have a great athletic history and many traditions in Jamestown and I am proud to be a part of it."

Superintendent cont.

costs. Anytime that a week of school does not line up with our BOCES then students who attend these programs are hurt because they miss class. Taxpayers are also hurt because they pay for a service that we do not receive. If students miss too many days of school, then they suffer academically! In the controversy that has developed this year, there have been many other reasons given as pros and cons for both the split break the two-week break combined. People in western New York need to understand that the vast majority of New York State is on a split break schedule and have been for many years. So it is critical to line up with other county schools and to line up our schedules with New York State, especially as more tests are coming down from the State Education Department. Our #1 consideration is not about people's vacation time.

Lastly, the building construction/renovation projects for our new Technical Academy have been completed. Presently, it is serving as the site for our middle school alternative education program. Next year we are hoping to place our Tourism Academy, our Technology-World Information and Manufacturing Academy into this newly renovated building. It will also serve as the location for Home Teaching requirements. We will ease into our start-up mainly because of budget constraints but also because we want each new program to be successful.

Ring and Bush renovation work and site work has been completed. The new additions should be done by the end of January. Martin Road fields will be ready for use in the spring of 2004. Jamestown High School will be finished with its extensive renovations by August 2004. The projects of this approximately \$74.9 million project that remain include the final phases of work to be done at Washington and Jefferson Middle Schools and renovation work at Rogers Elementary School. Please feel free to make an appointment with any of our principals to see the newly renovated buildings.

Happy New Year.

Washington Middle School

Some giving students are spreading birthday cheer through Washington's Birthday Bunch. Once a week a group volunteers meet to create birthday goodies for students in their school. Each student in the group is responsible for specific homerooms. The students create a small plate of cookies, candies, bookmarks, coupon for ice cream from McDonalds and a pencil and an eraser. They decorate and wrap with a bow and deliver the gifts to the student in their homeroom. They also decorate a bulletin board in the main hallway that shows all the students' birthdays.

"It's wonderful that these students volunteer their time before school to acknowledge their peers," said Washington guidance counselor, Michelle Wiekel, who helps advise the club. "The benefits of the Birthday Bunch to the whole school are student recognition, which is a self-esteem booster, feelings of belonging to their school, and helping to promote a positive school environment.

Birthday Bunch students enjoy what they do.

"We get to know the homeroom teachers we work with so when we get to 7th & 8th grade we'll already know the teachers," said 6th grader, Tiarra Coules.

-Dan Bracey, Principal

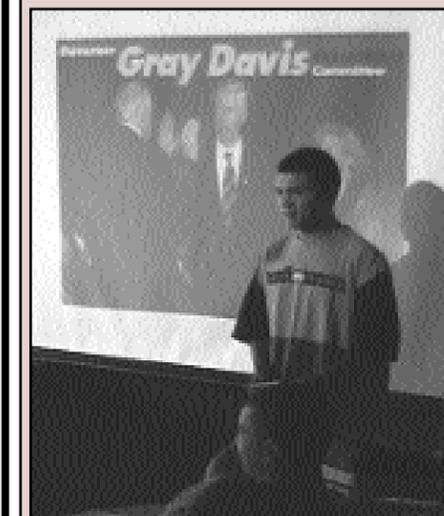


Washington's Birthday Bunch work on birthday treats for their fellow students

Jefferson Middle School

Jefferson students learned about social reform in the 20th century through a unique collaborative project using a research/public speaking component in Marty Rich's 8th grade Social Studies and Norm Arthurs' English Language Arts classes. Students worked independently and as teams to chose a particular social reform based on their social studies chapter "Spirit of the Reform 1800s -1900s." Students researched the reform using the Internet, library books, magazines and other research tools and note-taking skills. After learning about their particular reform, students prepared an informative/persuasive speech where they presented their argument, the oppositions argument and their own personal position on the reform. Students had to complete the speech, along with a visual aid, and complete a written essay. Students Jen Vaccaro and Jillian Smith chose the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Law as their social reform topic.

"When we began our research, we wanted to find out more about NCLB because we had only heard one side of the argument, which was that it was negative," said Jen. "As we researched, we realized there were other sides and we ended up being for NCLB in our speech."



Jefferson student, Ethan Gibbs, gives his speech on the Governor recall in California to his class.

Students enjoyed the interactive process of the unit.

"Giving a speech is a much more powerful way of learning and persuading others to your views, than just writing it down on paper," said Jillian.

"You can actually change someone's opinion on a subject by giving a persuasive speech."

- Carm Proctor, Principal

Persell Middle School

The theme for this year at Persell Middle School is RESPECT. This theme was picked because the faculty and students felt there needed to be more concern with stu-

dents treating others with respect. The school year began with a PEPSI multimedia presentation about respect. Each morning the announcements ended with a respect quote of the day. A poster contest was also held. Staff members hoped to raise awareness of what it means to be respectful by tying various aspects of respect into their lessons. Their ultimate goal was to get students to become more respectful members of our school and our community.

Several members of our faculty, Mr. Dix, Mr. Goldberg, Ms. Putney and Ms. Yocum, along with the building principal, Mr. Cammarata, decided to form a committee centered around recognizing respectful acts. The school-wide positive recognition system took off and became known as "Caught Being Respectful." All faculty and staff members hand out respect tickets to students who are caught being respectful. Each month the tickets are gathered and drawings for prizes are done on the morning announcements. We have received gracious community donations from Pizza Hut, Yum Yums, Johnny's Lunch, Compassion Matters, Jamestown YMCA, Chautauqua Lasers, Lakewood Golf Center, Ultimate Challenge, ABAT (Steve Trapani), as well as our own Student Council, School Store and staff members.

From what has been seen so far, and from what the data shows, the Caught Being Respectful campaign has been successful.

- Phil Cammarata, Principal



Dave McGee catches students, Blake Johnson, Jon Akers, Alec Johnson, and Ryan Lamb being respectful. They were the November RESPECT winners. (Absent from photo: Shannon Sampson and Tabitha Boyles)

Love Elementary School



Ms. Hinds works with students, Dillon Lampman and Alfredo Rosa, on their second Science experiment.

“Ewww, it’s sticky!”

“Look, my ball bounces!”

These were just some of Love fourth grade students’ reactions during their Power and Crystals Unit experiment phase in Laurie Hind’s class. The students conducted three experiments. In the first, students used cornstarch and water to see if they could make a sticky substance. In the second experiment, they used liquid starch and glue to try to make a putty. Students found that it made a paste that would stretch, but wasn’t very sticky. In the last experiment, students used borax, glue, food coloring and water to create a homemade bouncing ball.

“The idea behind these experiments is so that students learn to identify chemicals, one at a time,” said Ms. Hind. “They need to follow directions and make conclusions about what went right or wrong during their particular experiment.”

“My favorite subject is science,” said student, Nicole Green. “I found out today that you have to add Borax to make it sticky. It’s fun to compare all the different chemicals to see what worked to make the bouncy ball.”

- Renee Hartling, Principal

Fletcher Elementary School

“Does everyone celebrate a holiday?” asked parent, Olga Salgado. “In Puerto Rico, we call our holiday The Three Kings Day. We have a huge parade with a lot of festivities and food.”

Mrs. Salgado was speaking to 3rd graders at Fletcher as part of their Puerto Rico unit. During the unit, student study the physical features of Puerto Rico including creating a map, which shows the mountains and lowlands. Students study the weather and climate, especially as compared to Jamestown. They learn about Puerto Rico’s form of government and again compare it to the U.S. government. They study the people, cities, economy, arts and culture, and jobs. Students focus on learning how to answer document based questions and work on their reading and writing skills by doing many activities. Students also had the opportunity to taste some of the foods of Puerto Rico including tasting pineapple and plantain, which is a hybrid banana plant and a staple of many Puerto Ricans’ diet and smelling coffee beans,

- Chris Tracey, Principal

Parent, Olga Salgado, shows students some of her memorabilia from Puerto Rico.



Bush Elementary School

After reading City Green, by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan, Amy Anderson’s fourth grade guided reading group decided to help make Bush School more beautiful by planting their own garden. Teachers Barb Senn, and some of her third graders, along with teacher, Maura Domagola, were there to help out as well. Students took time out to help beautify their school and learn more about nature and the environment around them.

- Tom Schmidt, Principal



Lincoln Elementary School

“Good morning, my name is Jennie Cross. Today is December 18th. Today’s feature book is “Arrow to the Sun,” which was a Caldecott Award winner.”

Jennie is participating in Lincoln’s morning announcement program, where all fourth graders get an opportunity to “be on TV” and let their peers know what is going on at Lincoln through the SAFARI system.

“Everything about doing morning announcements is fun,” said 4th grader Ashley Eck. “It is exciting to be in front of all the students in the school and tell everyone what is happening in and out of school.”

Morning announcements are done in the library under the guidance of Library Media Specialist, Mary Ann Glance. They include a list of the classrooms with perfect attendance, a quote and trivia of the day, a feature book, a thought of the day, general announcements, today’s thought, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The morning announcement program is a great way for students to become comfortable speaking in public and learn communication skills.

- Terry Radecki, Principal



Library Media Specialist, Mary Ann Glance, films, Jennie Cross, for the morning announcement program.



Jamestown Prendergast Library staff read to children during their Rogers’ story hour.

Rogers Elementary School

Rogers School is excited to partner with the Prendergast Library and the Jamestown Community Learning Council for a thrilling opportunity to host a story hour. It is a great time for both parents and their preschool age children to enjoy not only the stories being read, but also the opportunity to check out books from the Prendergast Library right in Rogers School.

Each story hour session is held once a week for six continuous weeks and is open to all residents of Jamestown. Though encouraged to attend all six sessions, it is not a requirement, however, an adult must accompany the children. The story hour sessions will also include an activity for children to bring home based on the theme of the books read during the story hour.

This collaboration is yet another way of promoting family literacy and the importance of reading with and to a child, especially in the formative years prior to attending school. Rogers looks forward to having residents of their community attend with their preschool aged children. Though they wish to accommodate everyone, space is limited. To obtain information on scheduling, dates, times, and reservations for the next session contact the Rogers School JCLC/PACERS program at 450-8428 or JCLC/UPK Program at 483-5636.

- Sam Pellerito, Principal

Ring Elementary School

The T.A.P (Tutorial Assistance Program) is underway at Ring School. Utilizing funding through the New York State Reading For Results Program, this program offers additional support to selected students in the areas of Reading and Language Arts. This program is part of the New York State Reading Excellence Act (REA) Program.

The emphasis of T.A.P. is on Reading, and Language Arts, with its goal to improve the reading skills of each student, and to provide reading instruction and related early childhood learning experiences.

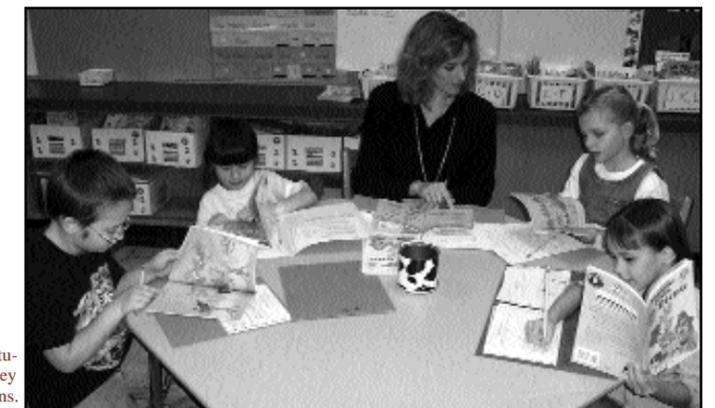
Ring School’s program presently enrolls 110 students. Classes meet three days each week, either before or after school. Classes and groups are small and are designed for more individual and small group instruction. Marcia Matteo coordinates the program, together with a staff of highly qualified and dedicated teachers. T.A.P promises to deliver extraordinary learning experiences to all of the children involved.

Activities involving the students, as well as opportunities for parent involvement, will be the focus, in an effort to improve the reading and language arts skills of all the children.

This is a great opportunity to involve students in many positive learning experiences.

- Felix Muzza, Principal

Ring teacher, Kim Ognibene, works with students, Zachary Colgrove, Alexia Lam, Mistey Newbree and Monica Simmons.



High School News

Construction Update



Jamestown High School's construction projects are right on schedule. In many cases, only the punchlist, final details and balancing out systems are being finished up. The electrical system is on and the data system is up and running. Most SAFARI, printers, cameras, etc. are complete but a few still need to be completed in the near future. The heating system has been a challenge as there are two levels - air and water - that need to be balanced. This is being worked on in certain areas of the building to fully regulate.

The library is currently under construction, with the help of the library staff, who have been incredibly patient and allowed construction crews to work while the library is open. Due to their cooperation, the work in the library should be complete by Christmas Recess.

The pool infrastructure, including pumps, humidity system, etc., is being worked on. Once swim season is over, the pool will be closed down for major overhaul.

The security system is also being worked on. JHS will eventually have a card swipe system in order to enter the building. Every lock in the building will be re-keyed. Security cameras will also be installed.

The last work to be done at JHS will be the exterior site work, which includes landscaping, field development, building a handicapped accessible ramp at the front of the building, work on doors, and the fitness trail.

JHS Girls' Varsity Basketball & Ring Students Spread Holiday Cheer



JHS Red Raider Varsity Girls' Basketball players, Michelle Farr and Karli Olson, listen to Ring 2nd grade student, Monica Simmons, read "Are You My Baby," to Warner Home residents, Jeanne Henderson and Lucille Allen. The JHS team and the Ring students from Kim Ognibene's class were participating in a fun, community service activity. The JHS and Ring students met twice before their visit to write letters to the residents and make holiday ornaments to present. During the visit, Ring students read stories to the residents and everyone sang holiday songs with the help of parent, Cindy Lind-Hanson who played the piano.

"I saw residents get a tear in the eye from joy when they saw the kids come in," said Warner Home activities director, Sonya Gibbs. "We were so excited to have the kids come and visit."

The JHS Girls' Varsity Basketball team performs many community service activities throughout the year and plan to continue visiting the Warner Home throughout the coming year.

Financial Aid Night

Like most schools in the county, JHS offers a Financial Aid Night every year for the parents of seniors. This year the event will be held January 8th, at 7:00 pm with a snow date of January 12th. Presenters include Laurie Vorp, Director of Financial Aid at JCC, Debra Murrow, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at JCC, and Joann Carlson and June Diethrick from the Community Foundation. Members of the JHS School Counseling staff will also be on hand to address individual questions. A packet containing financial aid and scholarship information will be given to all parents who attend.

Finally, a newly developed presentation for high school juniors and seniors will be offered on the night of January 7th at 7:00pm. This event, spearheaded by JHS graduate Kara DeAngelo, will offer the unique perspectives of a group of current colleges students. In essence, the program will offer our high school students a crash course in the college application process and a general overview of college life as seen through the eyes of group of students. Kara and some of her classmates will offer a sneak preview of this program to selected classes during the first week of January.

Penny Wars



JHS recently completed their annual Penny Wars where each class tries to raise the most money for a charity. This year JHS raised \$3,262.44 for the Chautauqua County Youth Hockey Association's Sled Hockey Program for disabled youth.

In the spirit of competition, each class advisor, student organization presidents', and JHS' principal all agreed to either be "slimed" or receive a pie in the face depending on which class raised the most money. This year, the senior class raised the most money.

"An event like this brings our school together, especially near the holiday time," said JHS Student Organization Co-Treasurer, Meghan Cunningham. "It raises everyone's spirits to give to a charity."

"It is important that we pick a local charity," added Co-treasurer, Rachel Deppas. "We try to pick a charity that is meaningful and may affect people in our own school."

The money donated will be used to purchase sleds for both the sled hockey program and for the Jamestown community to use at the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena.

After School Corner

"Pets in Our Lives" at Jefferson



Jefferson students, Athena Brosius and Natasha Cross, make homemade pet biscuits

Lamae McCullor created a unit in the Jefferson Advantage Program about pets in students lives. She e-mailed several pet supply companies about the program and what the students were doing and many sent several free gifts for the children to take home to their pets. The students are also making homemade dog and cat treats. Jefferson Advantage is also collecting food for the Humane Society. This is part of their Community Service project. They will donate the food before the Christmas break. Mrs. McCullor's after school class is just one of many offered through the Jefferson Advantage After School Program. For more information, call Cheryl Gullotti at 499-3424.

Children in Need: Can You Help?

Children in our community are in need of your help. As victims of abuse or neglect, they need temporary, sometimes permanent homes. They need to know that there is someone who will care for them, provide the basics - food, clothing and shelter- along with lots of unconditional love. They need someone who will open their home and their heart to them and their family, someone who is willing to be a member of a team of service providers who are committed to making a difference in the life of a child.

In 2002 alone, 95 children entered foster care. Out of the adoptions finalized in 2002, 68% of the children were adopted by their foster parents. This is a mixed blessing. On one hand, children were able to stay with a family they come to know and love. On the other hand, the foster family does not have room for any more children.

How can you help? Chautauqua County Department of Social Services holds monthly informational meetings. These meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at the South County Office Building at 110 East Fourth Street in Jamestown and at the Liberty Square Office Building at 339 Central Avenue in Dunkirk at 6:30 p.m. These meetings will provide you with an orientation to foster/adoptive parenting and provide you with information about the certification process. Pre-registration is requested but not required. Call 661-8212 or 363-3596 for more information.

Meet the New Coordinator of Fine & Performing Arts

Ruth Anne Pitt is the new Coordinator of Performing and Fine Arts. Ruth Anne grew up in Jamestown and was fortunate to have two music teachers who influenced her love for music. Elementary school general music teacher, Lillian Nelson, and band director, Mary Anne Harp, both afforded her the opportunities to love music so much that she always dreamed of being a music teacher.

For 6 1/2 years she taught at Love, JHS, and Jefferson. She and her husband relocated to the Richmond, Virginia area almost 11 years ago where she was the Choral Director at Stonewall Jackson Middle School. Her middle school choruses have won many national honors as well as singing at Disney World in 2000 and 2003.

Upon completing her administration degree from the College of William & Mary, she is excited to be the Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts. Now, she and her husband return with their two small children and plan to share with them the beauty of the area and the wonderful things Jamestown schools have to offer.

"What is even more exciting is to be an integral part of my hometown schools," said Ruth Anne. "I look forward to serving the students, teachers, parents, and community in this capacity. The arts are a vital part of our lives. I bring to this position the background of the traditions of the arts in our schools, but also a new perspective from that which I have experienced while away. As you see art work displayed around town and hear the fine musical performances in the schools, know that there are hard-working, dedicated, enthusiastic teachers behind it all encouraging your children to strive for success. The arts make up the whole person. Teaching the arts to children must begin at the earliest of ages and be fostered throughout life."



