

The Trojan Press

Spring 2015



The East Jackson “Blue Ops” Robotics Team at the State Championship



**Superintendent
Patrick Little**

May is always full of “Hellos” and “Good-byes” in the school business. Bittersweet graduation and retirement announcements are par for the course each spring. We have a terrific senior class, full of bright and courageous leaders who have helped transform East Jackson High School into a Reward school and beyond. Our Student Council, National Honor Society, music program, athletics, and robotics clubs have all benefited from the character and hard work of the Class of 2015!

East Jackson will also say goodbye to some valuable employees. Retirement is a great milestone for these employees and we will miss each of them: Gail George, Joy Rosynek, Janet Cromley, Kevin Herendeen, and Dale Bannister. They have touched many lives in their service to the East Jackson students, staff and community.

We do say “Hello” to new opportunities, such as our new class of kindergartners who will be the graduating class of 2028! We are excited to move into our newly renovated East Jackson Elementary which is scheduled to open on time! Tours of the facility will start in the 2nd week of August. We also welcome two new administrators to our team. Mr. Andrew Neidlinger will serve as the new Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at East Jackson Secondary School and Mrs. Jill Arcaro will serve as Assistant Principal at East Jackson Elementary.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Trojan Press and share with me, the “Hellos” and “Good-byes” that May brings us this year!

Together WE Thrive!

East Jackson Royalty

2015 Snowfest



King ~ Mitchell Mullins
Queen ~ Jennifer LaRocque

2015 Snowfest Court

~Seniors~

~~~~~  
Tyler Bannerman  
Tyler Hervey  
Joshua Nelson  
Marcus Parker  
~~~~~



~~~~~  
Lani Balansag  
Allison Boudreau  
Hayley Cooper  
Dominique Whitehead  
~~~~~

~Freshmen~

~~~~~  
Audrey Seymour  
Donte' Grupe-Barnes  
~~~~~

~Sophomores~

~~~~~  
Whitney Andrus  
Kyle Kerley  
~~~~~

~Juniors~

~~~~~  
Kayla Kolb  
Andrew Schied  
~~~~~



Brent Cole
EJSS Principal

East Jackson Secondary School

Important Dates For East Jackson Secondary Students:

May 22, 2015 - Commencement Ceremony 7:00 p.m.
June 11, 2015 - Last Day for EJSS Students
Have a great summer!



Wow! Spring has finally arrived, and it certainly took long enough to get here. With the warmer weather we have the pleasure of getting ready to say goodbye to our senior class of 2015. The wonderful ceremony will take place on May 22nd. It will be a proud day for our seniors and their families as they begin their journey beyond East Jackson. Please look to our web page and Facebook for all the current graduation information.

As we wind down the 2014-15 school year, I would like to share with you some of the great initiatives we are continuing and developing here in the Secondary building. As a staff we are continuing to collaborate and develop learning centered initiatives for our students in grades 7-12. Specifically, these learning outcomes will better prepare our students for success today and in their future learning. Our building wide support initiative Reading Apprenticeship, now in its third year of implementation, has been beneficial in this work. This program helped improve our overall reading scores and played a significant part in our "Reward School" status given to the Secondary building by the State of Michigan. To further support these initiatives, we added two math support classes this year. We implemented one at each of the 7th and 8th grade levels. These classes have provided additional time and instruction for students to improve their math skills. So far, we are very pleased with the successes we are seeing from this program and hope to expand this concept into other core areas.

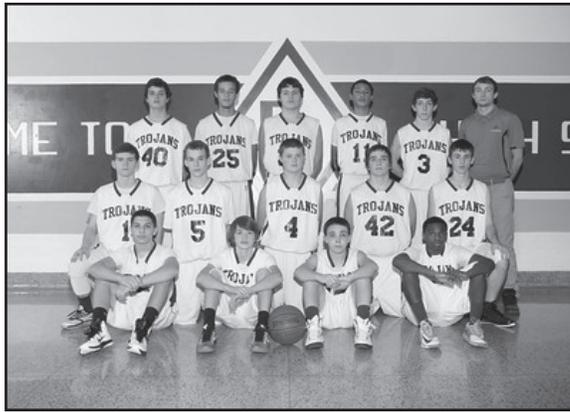
I look forward to continuing the great work we have begun for our students this year. My door is always open and I encourage you to stop in or call with any questions or concerns. This is a community school, which means we need to educate as a community. If you are interested in being a part of that community, please contact me. We would certainly welcome your interest and participation in our school.

Together We Thrive!





Varsity Boys Basketball



JV Boys Basketball



Varsity Cheerleading



Varsity Boys Bowling



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Varsity Girls Basketball



JV Girls Basketball

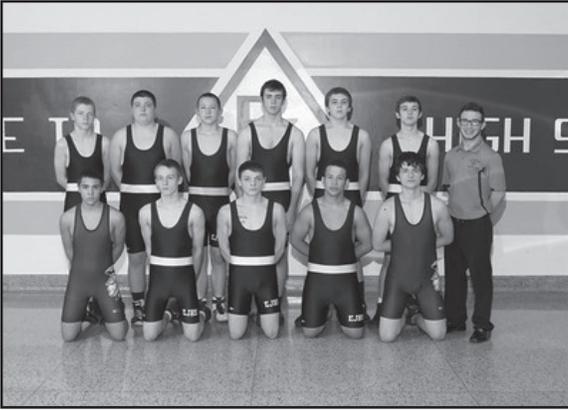


JV Cheerleading



Varsity Girls Bowling





Varsity Wrestling



8th Grade Boys Basketball



7th Grade Boys Basketball



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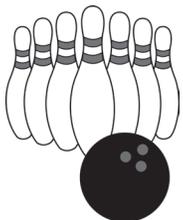
Middle School Cheerleading



8th Grade Girls Basketball



7th Grade Girls Basketball





Robinson Elementary School

School Day Hours - 8:30 a.m. - 3:43 p.m.

Last Day of School for
Robinson Elementary:
June 12, 2015
Have a great
summer!



Heather Jacobs
Robinson Elementary Principal

We continue our busy schedule at Bertha Robinson Elementary as we provide many opportunities for our 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students. Along with the numerous classroom activities, our students have also learned through participating in recent events including field trips. Also, our PTCO has sponsored the Market Day sales, book give-aways, dances, and even our “popcorn Fridays”.

As you may already know, March was Reading Month. We had many activities and Michigan children’s author, DL Price, was able to come to present to our students on March 11th and 12th thanks to the financial support of our PTCO. Students received an autographed book mark and had the opportunity to provide some ideas for her next books.

I encourage you to share the joy of reading with your children each and every month. Research has shown that students who read a lot become better readers and spellers. To encourage your children to read, you can do a variety of things. Parents and guardians can set a good example by reading and sharing with their children what they have read. Keep magazines, newspapers, and books around the house. Choose a regular time for family reading. Ask your children to read to others. (Grandparents and younger siblings love it!)

Springtime (rather than the fall) brings state assessments this school year. There are two assessments: M-Step and MI-Access. Your student may take one assessment or the other or they may even take certain content areas using different assessments. The testing will be in a much different format with them being administered on-line. The English Language Arts (ELA) test will include reading, writing, and listening components. The Science test will be taken in 4th grade and the Social Studies test will be taken in 5th. All grades at Robinson will take both ELA and Math assessments.

As always, student attendance is of the utmost importance and to be sure they are properly assessed. Once these tests are scored and returned, the results will be shared with students and their families. Fortunately, the NWEA testing that we’ve been administering in reading and math has helped us to prepare ourselves for other on-line testing. We have also been able to test our technology to ensure that we are ready. Testing begins in April and goes through June with 3-week cycles for each grade.

Please continue to use Power School to monitor your student’s academic progress and call the office if you need assistance at 764-1810. Also, by using the “Links to our Schools” tab, you will gain access to our school and teacher web site links which provide a lot of helpful information. Our district web site is: www.eastjacksonschools.org.

Enjoy the spring weather and read, read, read!



Title I News



Title I is a federal program that provides additional math, reading, social studies and science instruction. The Title I Program strives to provide an environment that promotes a positive attitude, increases student achievement and supplements and supports what takes place in the classroom. Our Title I Program has been in full swing this year working with students to help increase their understanding of concepts taught in the classroom. We have the Title I Learning Coach, Title I Instructional Assistants, and Title I Para-professionals all working with students across grade levels and subject areas. Our Title I Informational Night, Math Night and the Science Extravaganza were three events sponsored by our Title I Program. All three nights were a success with great attendance by our parents and students.



Helpful Tips

Make a Connection – Communication Tips for Parents

We all have asked someone how their day was and received the common response, fine. Kids are looking to be connected with parents and the family as a whole. Often, they just lack the skills to make those verbal connections. Here are a few tips from the American Psychological Association that may aid you in making that connection with your child:

*Be available -- great conversations can be had in the car, before dinner and even at bedtime - be looking for opportunities; instead of starting a conversation with a question, try sharing what you have been thinking about - it will break the ice; learn about their interests and show interest in them

*Let them know you are listening -- put down the cell phone or look away from the television and make eye contact; repeat what you heard to let them know you heard them correctly; listen to their point of view and let them complete their thoughts before responding

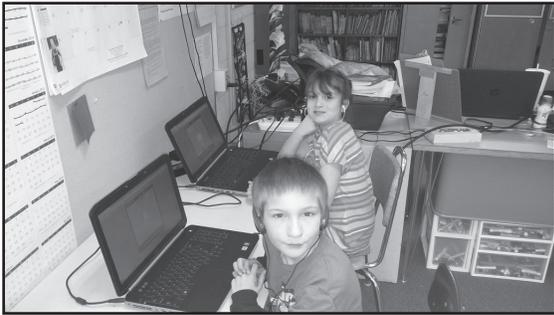
*Respond in a way your child will hear -- soften strong reactions - kids will tune you out when you appear angry or defensive; focus on your child's feelings during the conversation, not your own.

For more great tips go to: <http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/communication-parents.aspx>

By: Kimberly Hoaglin, LLMSW – School Social Worker



Technology in Mrs. Luoma's Room



Students in Mrs. Luoma's room have been using different forms of technology to enhance their learning. This year they have used the smartboard, IPODs and laptop computers. Today, they were using the laptop computers to practice their spelling words in Spelling City. Each of Mrs. Luoma's students has a Spelling City account where they can practice their spelling words from anywhere.



OUR MISSION

The staff at Bertha Robinson Elementary, in partnership with parents and community members, is committed to developing the skills of each student, ensuring that the students will become confident, self-motivated, life-long learners who will have a positive impact on society.

“Where tomorrow's minds are trained today.”



Our building welcomed the students back to school with the implementation of the Nurtured Heart Approach. Each of the fourth grade classrooms developed some sort of Greatness Wall to emphasize positive qualities and actions that the students can exhibit on a daily basis.

Then, the students were able to practice all of the new greatness qualities through the LINKS program facilitated by Mrs. Swiontek, Mrs. Wilson, and Mrs. Hoaglin. Also, the students were further introduced to kindness and acceptance through the Kids on the Block presentation offered by the JCISD.

To share their knowledge with Jackson County, all fourth grade students were given an opportunity to enter into the Teresa Delph Oratorical Essay Contest and write on the topic of using kindness at home and school. If chosen, the students will give a speech at Jackson Crossing and compete for three gift certificates.



Typing essays into Google Docs.

Room 7 engaged in the Kids on the Block presentation.

Our Greatness Word of the Day.



Technology In Education

This year, the sixth grade students have taken over Google by using Google docs and Google Classroom weekly. They recently made a list of the skills that they have accomplished. This list includes: putting add-ons to their Google document, inserting images and text from the web, using a dual screen, sharing their Google doc, as well as being able to add their doc to an assignment in Classroom in order to turn it in.

Recently, Mrs. Fazekas' and Mrs. Davidson's classes have paired up with three fifth grade classrooms to share their knowledge of Chromebooks. The sixth graders showed them how to log in, mark favorite web sites, took the practice test for M-Step, and showed them their projects on Prezi and Voki. Mrs. Fazekas' class also showed the students in Mr. Pieh's classroom the basics of using Google docs and Google classroom.

Since technology is more readily available in the sixth grade, students have used more web sites/web tools than ever. For vocabulary assignments, students enjoy using Biteslide to create vocabulary cards and Quizlet for review. Spelling City is used to practice and give spelling tests. Prezi is helpful for presentations and projects, especially the students' culture project. As for reading assignments, students like to create talking avatars on Voki.

Reader's Theater in Room 8



Room 8 – cast of Millions of Cats



Cast of Harriett the Whiner:



Reader's Theatre or Reader's Theater is a style of theater in which the actors do not memorize their lines. Actors use only vocal expression to help the audience understand the story, rather than visual storytelling such as sets, costumes, intricate blocking, and movement.

Room 8 students recently performed their third Reader's Theater for other Bertha Robinson Elementary classrooms. Millions of Cats and Harriett (the whiner) was adapted by Aaron Shepherd for classroom use.

The students of Room 8 enjoy performing Reader's Theater plays. They are able to practice their reading fluency while vocally acting out different parts.



SCHOOL
IS
FUN!



*Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn!
- Benjamin Franklin*



Dale Bannister
Memorial Elementary Principal

Memorial Elementary School

School Day Hours - 8:45 a.m. - 3:58 p.m.

Last Day of School for
Memorial Elementary:
June 11, 2015
Have a nice
summer!



This school year is winding down! Our 4th marking period began on 3/30. Report cards were sent home on 4/10 with your students. I want to thank you for your cooperation with your child's teachers in raising expectations for student success, for calling in absences, for keeping communication lines open between you and the teachers regarding your children and all the other little things that make things go smoother at Memorial.

March was reading month and your students are doing an exceptional job reading. By keeping up their reading logs, they had a chance to win many nice prizes. We thank you for your support! We have held our "Muffins with Mom" and "Donuts with Dad" days and those events were enjoyed by all. We would like to thank you parents who took time to come in and read with your students and take advantage of the free books. Thanks to you all for the support and encouragement of your children's learning.

Our spring Kindergarten Round Up was held April 20 – 22. There will be another Round Up in August. Information including dates and times will be forthcoming. If you have any new kindergarten students, call the office and schedule a time to get them enrolled. Also, if you have any friends or family members with upcoming kindergarten students, please encourage them to bring in their students to enroll. We really appreciate all the parent support and involvement. Please keep it up! The last day of school for students will be June 11. Have a safe and fun summer!



Kindergarten

Do you have a child who is ready for Kindergarten, or know someone who does? East Jackson Elementary is now enrolling for the 2015-2016 school year! Don't miss all of the exciting things that East Jackson Community Schools has to offer your future student! Call 517-784-7131 today to schedule your registration appointment!

- iPads in the classrooms!
- Large, newly renovated Kindergarten classrooms!
- SAFE and welcoming learning environment!
- Low student/teacher ratio!
- Nurtured Heart Approach!



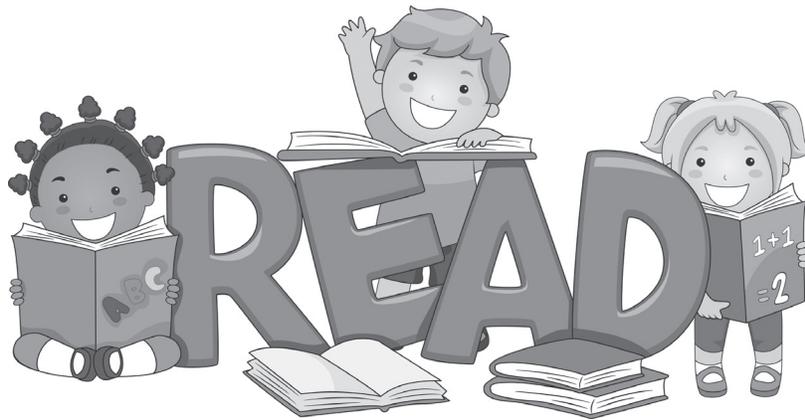


Students in Room 18 celebrated 100 days of school with a variety of projects and activities. We each wrote 100 words, we worked on 100 math problems together, made clay and added 100 toothpicks to create hedgehogs, counted 100 Fruit Loops to make animal pictures. We had a great time celebrating being 100 days smarter!

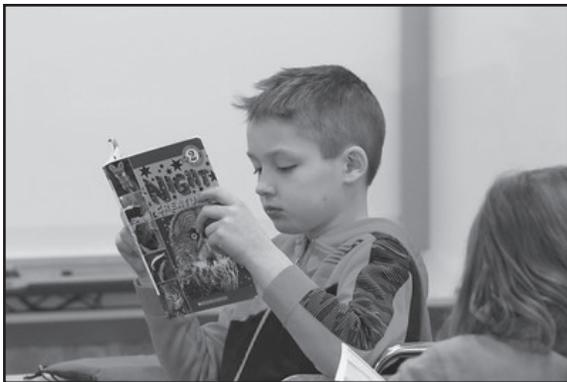


Students enjoyed a performance by Alan Kazam called Reading is Magic sponsored by our PTCO.





March was Reading Month. We have great readers at Memorial!
Encourage your students to continue reading throughout the summer!



More Reading Month Fun!

Memorial kids read 1,256 hours during reading month. We were able to give away a lot of prizes and 2 of our students won bikes! We had 2 special visitors, Joel Tacey who did a Reading Rocks assembly and Magician Alan Kazam. We had great participation for our Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad events. At the end of the month, our top readers in each class enjoyed smashing eggs on Mr. Daly's head!



ART 634 Art Show

Two Memorial students, Ashton Taylor and Cheyenne Ossenmacher, along with their art teacher, Mrs. Durocher, recently had artwork displayed in the #jxnartteachers Art Show at Art634. The art show was compiled of artwork by Jackson County Art teachers and their students.



Transportation News

BUS RIDERS OF THE MONTH



Memorial Bus Riders of the Month
December 2014 - April 2015



Robinson Bus Riders of the Month
December 2014 - April 2015



Thank you to our dedicated bus drivers for getting us to
and from school safely every day!

If you have any questions regarding transportation,
please feel free to
contact the Transportation Office.
Phone: (517) 764-6057 EXT. 5
Email: linda.dubois@eastjacksonschools.org

We are fortunate enough to have two brand new
buses this spring! Look for 15A & 15B!



East Jackson Elementary Construction Update!

Construction at East Jackson Elementary is in full swing! We are on target for completion this summer, so we can open the doors to a new and improved learning environment for our students. Some of the exciting things students should expect when they arrive in the fall include a beautiful new media center, updated technology, and freshly decorated, bright and inviting classrooms. Our staff is busy preparing for a wonderful first year of learning at East Jackson Elementary!





E J's All Pro Dad's Day chapter meets once a month for a monthly breakfast at East Jackson Memorial School. This event is for the all dads and students of East Jackson Community Schools.

All Pro Dad was launched with the help of former Indianapolis Colts head coach and Jackson native Tony Dungy in 1997. During this time, dads discuss with their children a wide range of family topics, spend time together, create fun memories, and are equipped with resources to strengthen their relationship.

WHO: East Jackson Dads and their Children

WHAT: All Pro Dad's Day breakfast, Like us on Facebook at "All Pro Dad – East Jackson"

WHERE: East Jackson Memorial School gymnasium, 345 N. Dettman Rd.

WHEN: For our schedule and to RSVP go to www.allprodad.com/3647 Kids eat free, dads pay only \$2.50.

CONTACT: Randy Hampton - All Pro Dad Team Captain at 06evan2306@gmail.com

If for any reason a child's dad is not able to attend then a male role model is welcome to attend with the child.

For more information on the All Pro Dad programs nationwide, please visit www.AllProDad.com.



GET CONNECTED!

Don't miss out on great news and information about our school!

Like us on Facebook! - East Jackson Community Schools

Follow us on Twitter! - @EJSchools

Visit our website! - www.eastjacksonschools.org





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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

May 22, 2015 - Commencement
May 25, 2015 - No School (Memorial Day)
June 11, 2015 - Last Day for Students at Memorial and East Jackson Secondary School
June 12, 2015 - Last Day for Students at Robinson Elementary

HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL SUMMER!



**Healthy food to fuel
your summer. Free!**

Served at:

Ridgewood Vista
5000 Ponderosa, Jackson, Mi.
Indian Village
2600 E. South St. Jackson, Mi.

Contact:

Becki Nutt @ 764-9121
MCHS @ 764-1440

Serving Dates & Times:

Monday, June 15, 2015-Thursday,
August 27, 2015 Monday-Thursdays
11:30a.m.-12:30p.m.
We will be located at the Main office.
Any child 18 and younger are welcome to
EAT for FREE Monday-Thursday.

Grab your friends, and COME JOIN US.

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