EAST JORDAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
District Newsletter - February, 2019

EJPS is . . . “A Great Place to Learn”

EJPS Applauds Winter Athletic Teams!

Boys Varsity Basketball
Front row (l-r): Levi Pepin, Judd Wise, Parker Cesaro, Cooper Stevenson, Joe Atwood, Colby Ferguson, manager Eligh Wynkoop
Back row (l-r): Head coach, Nate Dzwik, Jackson Raymond, Jack Cross, Trevor Zeeryp, Sean Gooden, Caleb Carson, Ethan Zeeryp, AJ Bartlett and Chandler Bartig.

Boys Junior Varsity Basketball

Girls Varsity Basketball

Girls Junior Varsity Basketball

Girls Varsity Basketball

District Tournament games:
Boys Basketball - Feb. 25 & 27 in Charlevoix ~ Girls Basketball - March 4 & 6 in Mancelona
Varsity Cheer - MHSAA Districts on Feb. 16 in Brethren
The Business Professionals of America (BPA) students recently competed at Central Michigan University. During the competition, students take Microsoft Office tests and tests about business topics. They give speeches and present business related research along with a variety of other activities. Each student is allowed to compete in two events and take any of the open tests that are available. EJHS students earned the following awards during the competition:

Macy McPherson, Angela Rowbotham and Molly Kitson placed 4th in the Administrative Support team competition. Ethan Nachazel placed 7th in the Basic Office Systems category. Trent Graham placed 6th on the Parliamentary Procedures test and the Personal Finance test. The Presentation Management team of Tyler Hart, Madeline Malpass, Trent Graham, and Gabrielle Snyder received a 3rd place award.

The following students qualified for the state leadership conference which will be held in Grand Rapids in March, 2019 and may also qualify to compete in the National Leadership Conference in California: Gabrielle Snyder, 8th in Administrative Support Concepts, 7th on the Parliamentary Procedure test and 2nd on the Management and Marketing test. Hannah Lafferty finished 4th in Basic Office Systems. Madeline Malpass is the regional champion for the Entrepreneur event, placed 2nd in the Business Meeting and placed 9th on the Management and Marketing test. Justin Barnett placed 2nd in Digital Media and Nathaniel Newman placed 4th in PC Servicing & Troubleshooting, 6th in Extemporaneous Speech, and 7th in IT Concepts. Molly Kitson also received a 5th place award in Fundamental Accounting. Macy McPherson is the regional champion in Prepared Speech and placed 3rd on the Management and Marketing test. Congratulations to our BPA students for receiving these great awards!

Students who attended the BPA Competition at CMU: (L-R)  Tyler Hart, Madeline Malpass, Trent Graham & Gabrielle Snyder.

EJHS students pose at the Central Michigan University Campus during the Business Professionals of America competition.

Students who attended the BPA Competition at CMU: (L-R) Ethan Nachazel, Macy McPherson, Molly Kitson & Justin Barnett.

Students who attended the BPA Competition at CMU: (L-R) Angela Rowbotham, Nathaniel Newman, Hannah Lafferty & Lillian Black.

As we approach the last month of the basketball season, the teams wanted to share some of our high points. First, is most definitely getting to play in our brand new facility! The teams are so grateful for the support of the taxpayers, the skill of the designers and builders and the planning of the administration in making this a top tier facility. We truly have the best facility in northern Michigan and it is confirmed every time a team comes to the gym and is in awe of how great the gym and school looks. While everyone likes to see us win, and the teams agree that the amount of wins this year and the strides the teams are making certainly makes it an enjoyable time to be part of the program; the wins and losses don’t define our season.

What we define as a successful season is the impact we have in our community. We have 80 elementary students that are participating in youth ball including travel leagues for the 3-6th grades. The varsity had the privilege of serving Christmas dinner at the Senior Center. This was a great opportunity for the team to thank those people who come to games and support them in every way possible. The program is also working hard academically and the varsity is hoping to repeat last year’s team success as academic all-state honorable mention.

While we look at our success as how we impact our community, it is the community and the loud and supportive crowds that impact the team. When people come to games on the road or in our great facility, they make it a truly great environment for basketball. From parents, grandparents, cousins, family friends and members of the community, to the alumni who come back to support the program and the way our great student section and pep band help keep the teams energy up. The program definitely has a “6th Man” and that is the great crowd at every game. The program is looking forward to the next month of basketball (hopefully some more wins) and thank all of you for the support.

WE ARE EJ!!

The Devils Den East Jordan School Store

You can now shop at our school store online!

Instructions:
Step 1: Go to the following link: https://shopmain.com/store/ej-devils-den
Step 2: Add items to cart
Step 3: Once you have finished shopping, click on the cart
Step 4: Once you have finished, need to choose a “Pickup” or a “Ship” option
Step 5: In the “add address note to merchant” field write:
Pickup in office or
Pickup in child’s classroom (make sure to include the teacher’s name)

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We Are EJ Proud! Submitted by Michelle Seelye

In January, the elementary school hosted their kickoff to improve school-wide behavior. The morning started with a welcome back assembly reviewing our three behavior expectations: Responsible, Respectful and Safe.

We also introduced “We Are EJ PROUD!” to our students and staff. This welcome back assembly included teachers, staff, bus drivers and community members who were on hand to hear about how we are acknowledging positive behavior in hopes of earning a school-wide “proud party”.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, K-6 students rotated between areas of the school and learned how to be Responsible, Respectful and Safe.

We are excited to start the new year with our expectations and positive support from all. We look forward to great things to come!

Come support EJPS and join in the fun!

A Special Thanks to RC Club Volunteers! Submitted by John Cross

If you peek into the EJMHS woodshop on Tuesday afternoons, you may be surprised at who you will find. For the last two years, a small group of retired volunteers have given their time to help students build remote controlled boats after school. Thanks to a grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and these volunteers, students have been busy building boats that they hope to test when the ice recedes from our local lakes. Last year, two of our high school students placed in the top three at the Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society (MITES) competition in Lansing. We hope to have more students enter their boats in this year’s competition at Shanty Creek. Our students and faculty want to say thank you to these gentlemen. They have given their time both at school and home to help, but more importantly, they have given our students a sense of craftsmanship, pride and accomplishment! We also want to thank retired EJHS instructor Tom Sheridan. Tom is the originator of this idea and without his help and persistence, this wonderful program would not exist. Thank you, Tom!

Keith Smith recently retired from EJ, where he worked the last 44 years. Keith is an East Jordan native, and both of his children graduated from EJHS. Keith enjoys building all different types of remote controlled vehicles and he has been instrumental in starting and maintaining our after school club. Dennis Jesiek moved to East Jordan in 1999. Dennis is originally from the Flint area, where he owned a family furniture and carpet cleaning business. He loves classic cars and working with his hands. Dennis helped start the RC school club, and brings a wealth of knowledge to share with the kids. Art Halloran made the permanent move to East Jordan in 2015 and you may recognize him as one of the Ironton Ferry captains, where he has spun the wheel for the last 11 summers. Art retired from Midland Public Schools where he taught several different vocational classes, including Woodshop and CAD for 35 years. Art has three boys that graduated from Midland schools. Thanks to these talented men for working with our students!

5th and 6th Grade Students Give Back to the Community Submitted by Barb Noirot

Fifth and sixth grade students “paid it forward” by participating in the Elementary School annual Community Service Learning Project.

This year, students volunteered at Crossroads Resale Shop and Raven Hill Discovery Center. They also baked cookies and delivered them to downtown businesses. They worked on school beautification projects and sang Christmas carols throughout the community. All students learned how enjoyable it is to give to others. It was truly a day of fun while helping others in our community!
High School Students Earn Microsoft Certification

Congratulations to the following students who are now certified in Microsoft Word 2016! In order to earn this certification, students must successfully complete the Microsoft exam to show they are a Microsoft Office Specialist.

Top Photo: (l-r) Jayden Weber, Emma Kretzmer, Tyler Hart, Ethan Nachazel and Tegan Swanson.
Bottom Photo: (l-r) Ashley Cetnarowski, Cooper Stevenson, Joseph Atwood, Riley Saganek, Madison Buckholz and Chandler Bartig.

✓ Mark your Calendar
February 28th Community Forum

Our next date in the Moving the Boundaries Series is:
Thursday, February 28 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Middle/High School Auditorium

Michigan State Police Officer, Corey Hebner will be our guest speaker and the topics will include: Vaping Paraphernalia and the new Marijuana Laws.

The next session in the series is planned for: Wednesday, March 13.

Staff Spotlight
Miranda (Randi) McFall

This month, EJPS is proud to highlight Miss Randi McFall. Miss McFall was hired this year to teach preschool in the WE Are EJ Preschool program to our three-year-old students. This is her first year at EJPS and she has enjoyed the opportunity to help develop the WE Are EJ Preschool.

Miss McFall is a graduate of East Jordan Public Schools. Randi is also a graduate of Northern Michigan University where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, majored in Language Arts and is currently continuing her education through their Master’s Degree program.

Randi goes above and beyond to connect positively with her students’ parents and shares her love for their children with them. She has high energy and an exceptional ability to inspire and excite her students, parents and other teachers alike.

Miss McFall is an outstanding educator and deserves recognition for the hard work she puts into teaching our youngest students. Each day, she ensures that her young students are developing the knowledge and skills they need to thrive. She loves being a teacher because of the precious little learners who walk into her classroom each day!

When Randi is not working with our preschool students, she enjoys yoga, traveling, creating Native American bead work, and exploring nature. She is often seen giving back to the community by spending time volunteering for different organizations. She has been a little league coach for many years, was awarded the volunteer of the month award, and served heroically in the Vietnam War. She says, “I think of being part of the military as a sense of service to those who have fought wars we cannot imagine. I never understood the sacrifice my parents made by constantly being away from extended family and my mother having to be a full time mom while still working as a teacher while my Dad was away, but I believe they see the sacrifices much like I do now”.

Sarah loved being a part of the sports teams at EJHS. “Basketball, volleyball, and track were my sports and there is something about high school sports that cannot be imitated. The group of girls I played sports with I still talk to today and I truly think sports, especially for females, creates confidence and drive at a young age. Our coaches, like Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Hines, Mrs. Crick, Mr. Snarey, and even my own dad, made for an experience that helped each and everyone of us grow while having a blast,” says Sarah.

Sarah is pictured above with her fiance’, Ryan Duffy who is also a Lieutenant Navy Pilot.

At EJPS, we are so proud of the accomplishments of our alumni. Thanks to Sarah for sharing her achievements with us!

If you would like to suggest an EJPS graduate to be featured in the Alumni Spotlight, please email Kim Brown at kbrown@ejps.org!

Alumni Spotlight
Sarah Kupovits

We are proud to feature Sarah Kupovits as our Alumni Spotlight feature this month. Sarah graduated from East Jordan High School in 2008. She received a Medal of Academic Honor and also participated in the Miss East Jordan Scholarship Pageant. Upon graduation, Sarah attended Ohio State University where she majored in Business Marketing with a minor in Naval Studies.

She is currently a Lieutenant in the United States Navy working at the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School in Jacksonville, Florida as an Instructor Pilot and Tactics Subject matter expert.

“The Navy is certainly not for everyone and flight school was by far one of the most challenging things I have done, but in this field of work you are constantly learning, constantly moving forward. Once you have one title you move on to the next challenge”, says Sarah. She appreciates constantly trying to better herself. She has been to more than thirteen countries and has seen many different cultures and customs but she always appreciates coming home. She grew up in a Navy family, her father was a Navy Pilot for thirty years and also served heroically in the Vietnam War. She says, “I think of being part of the military as a sense of service to those who have fought wars we cannot imagine. I never understood the sacrifice my parents made by constantly being away from extended family and my mother having to be a full time mom while still working as a teacher while my Dad was away, but I believe they see the sacrifices much like I do now”.

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Vocational-Technical Students of the Month

Congratulations to Storm Whaley who was selected by the Career Technical Education faculty as the December 2018 Vocational - Technical Education Student of the Month and Keegan Speer who has been selected as the January Voc.-Tech. Student of the Month!

Storm Whaley, a senior, is currently enrolled in Automotive Technology courses. He works at The Zone and also enjoys working construction.

Keegan Speer, a freshman, is a student in our Computer-Aided Design class. Keegan’s extra-curricular activities include football and weight lifting. When not at school, Keegan enjoys fishing, playing football, and working on cars.

Pictured left: Vocational-Technical December Student of the Month, Storm Whaley
Pictured right: Vocational-Technical January Student of the Month, Keegan Speer

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