In May of 2017, the East Jordan Community approved a $10.8 million bond for East Jordan Public Schools. The primary purpose of the bond project is to enhance student safety and security. The project also updated our school facilities, equipment and technology. This bond project will benefit every student at every school facility across the district and was designed to maintain the community’s investment in its school district and provide a safe environment for our students.

While building projects are complete in the Elementary School and Middle/High School, we look forward to the completion of the gym renovation which will include a larger floor area, additional locker rooms and a walking track! The renovated space is expected to be open by November 26, in time for our first home basketball game.

Boys & Girls Cross Country Teams Are Division 4 Regional Champs For Second Year in a Row!

Congratulations to the members of the Boys & Girls Cross Country Teams!

Pictured are: Gus Scheier, Aaron Nachazel, Alex Schlueker, Caleb Carson, Ben Hardy, Ethan Nachazel, Cady King, Jacob Moses, Alie Pennington, Emily Zmiky, Tia Spence, Lilly Black, Hannah Lafferty, Caleb Ziebart, Haylah Buell, Philip Nemecek, Macy McPherson, Grace Beal, Lee Nemecek, Evan Cary, Head Coach Matt Peterson, Charity Whitaker, Christina Kooistra, Jennahka Moses, Skylar Grzebyk, Taylor Sheridan, Molly Kitson, Katie Cary, Hayley Curnow, Assistant Coach Paul Nachazel

The students are hoping to spread 150 signs throughout the community to promote positive thinking. Pictured are three of the signs that the students have created in the hopes of brightening someone’s day and bringing a smile to all that read them.

If you would like to display one of these signs, please email Mrs. Cary at cary@ejps.org or request a sign from any Middle School Honor Society member. The cost to Pass the Positive is only $10.00.

Save the Date!

Save the Date!

Saturday, March 2, 2019

DINNER ~ DANCING

LIVE BAND ~ CASH BAR

LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

East Jordan Public Schools Newsletter

www.ejps.org
First Automotive Olympics Competition held at Kirkland Community College
Submitted by Matt Wilson

East Jordan Automotive Instructor, Matt Wilson, recently brought a team of students to the Auto Olympics competition held at Kirkland Community College. Designed by staff from Kirkland’s Automotive Department, the Olympics tested students in a wide variety of skills, from the speed at which they could change a tire, to their ability to measure tiny spaces.

The six team and individual contests included Tool and Fastener Identification, Precision Measurement, Multi-Point Inspection, Tire Mount and Balance and a Pit-Crew Challenge. Michael Kraemer was awarded first-place in the Precision Measurement portion of the competition. As a team, the East Jordan students placed second in the Multi-Point Inspection event.

Students were also able to learn about the skills that are valued from an auto manufacturing and dealership perspective. Students representing East Jordan High School included, Michael Kraemer, Sabrina Brooks, Austin Drew, Jade Moffat, Matt Munich, Nick Peck, Brendan Slough, Cooper Stevenson, Emmy Washburn, Storm Whaley and Eliza Wojan.

East Jordan High School Automotive Instructor, Matt Wilson (left) and his Multi-Point Inspection team members, Nick Peck (center) and Storm Whaley accept their awards for a second-place finish in that event.

Michael Kraemer accepts the award for his first-place finish in the Precision Measurement skills test from Cesalee Kuffell, Admissions Coordinator at Kirtland Community College.

Students in Mrs. Bergquist’s 7th grade English class recently entertained their classmates with creative writing exercises. Their mission was to choose a genre and use three to five new spelling words in the correct context. Story topics ranged from “Fortnite to Unicorns” and the students engaged their audience with mystery and suspense.

Great job, writers!

Left to right: Zachary Murray, Jessica Hitsman, Isabelle Lowe, Grace Nemecak and Samuel Wilson.

Eighth Grade Students Visit Washington, D.C.

Below are photos taken during the recent eighth grade class trip to Washington, D.C. The Class of 2023 enjoyed exploring monuments, memorials, museums and learning about the United States government at our nation’s capital.

Pictured below are the 8th grade students Owen Cary, Nick Bascom, Jaden Harris and Christine Whitaker, who were selected to participate in the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Eighth grade students participated in an essay contest and the top four were chosen for the ceremony.

Mystery & Suspense in Mrs. Bergquist’s Class!

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Staff Spotlight
Lindsay Novotny

Lindsay Novotny, described by her colleagues as a educator who lives and breathes education, is our Staff Spotlight this month. She is an intrinsically motivated teacher that makes everyone around her better. Ms. Novotny is a dynamic example of the high quality teachers we have in our district. Her students and parents report that she always has a smile on her face that is contagious and is just a straight-up rockstar teacher!

Lindsay has taught for the past six years, two of which have been in her current role as a second grade teacher at East Jordan Elementary School. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education with endorsements in Early Childhood Education and Mathematics from the University of Michigan-Flint and also holds a Masters of Educational Leadership from University of Michigan-Flint.

“Great teachers inspire and motivate students to reach goals far beyond what they expect of themselves, even in second grade”, says Elementary principal, Carla Vrondran. “We honor Lindsay as the tremendous teacher she is and recognize the huge contribution she has made at our school.”

She sets high standards not only for herself but also for her students and fellow educators. She currently serves on the Leadership Team and represents 2nd grade on the High Quality Teaching and Learning Project for the Char-Em ISD.

In her spare time she enjoys reading books and taking her dog, Jackson, for walks.
Biology Students Study Water Quality in Nearby Tributary
Submitted by Anna Walker

High School students in Mrs. Walker’s biology class who are a part of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Academy spent time collecting stream monitoring data in Birney Creek, a tributary of the Jordan River.

The tributary is located on the property of the Rogers Family Preserve. Students collected data to determine the stream quality which included hunting for macro invertebrates throughout the creek bed.

Despite the cold weather, the students displayed great teamwork and had some unique findings including three species of fish and a rare native crayfish.

All biology students have the opportunity to apply to be a part of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Academy. These students also monitor the creek in the spring, and all data collected gets entered into a National Database that is used for stream quality monitoring and research purposes.

National Bus Safety Week

The East Jordan Transportation Department recently participated in National Bus Safety Week and conducted bus evacuation drills with students. The drills are recommended by the Michigan Department of Education and help students understand how to safely evacuate a bus in the case of an emergency.

The EJPS Transportation Department has a great safety record while transporting more than 400 students each day while traveling more than 200 miles per day and 94,000 miles per year.

Thank you to our bus drivers for the important job they do for our students every day!
Fourth Grade Students Experience Life in the Past  
Submitted by Leslie Foley

In late September, 4th grade students took their annual trip to the Northern Michigan Antique Flywheelers showgrounds in Walloon Lake. This day-long trip allowed our students to experience “life in the past lane”, as they like to say.

The Walloon Flywheelers organization arranged for many demonstrations from turn-of-the-century America, including grain thrashing, veneer making, wicker caning, one room schoolhouse tours, honey and maple syrup production, antique tractor rides, and so much more.

Attending this event has been a 4th grade tradition for the past several years. Students learn first-hand about how our ancestors lived and worked as displayed at the Flywheeler exhibits.

Promoting Positive School Culture  
Submitted by Michelle Seelye

The results are in . . . thank you to all families who have supported our initiative to promote positive school culture within our district. We asked all families to participate in a short survey that was conducted over the last two months. The survey looked at a total of five categories: Teaching and Learning, School Safety, Interpersonal Relationships, Institutional Environment and Parental Involvement.

Overall, 181 families with students in grades K-12 completed the survey. A total score of 3.35 out of a possible 4.0 was compiled.

The Institutional Environment (buildings maintained, textbooks up to date, clean and organized classrooms) was ranked the highest with a score of 3.48.

Areas for improvement include Interpersonal Relationships such as, communication, parents feeling welcome and comfortable talking with teachers, and recognizing good behavior and Parental Involvement, examples were involvement in activities at school and volunteering for special projects.

As we continuously strive to give your children the best education possible, thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Alumni Spotlight  
Kevin Roberts

We are proud to feature Kevin Roberts as our Alumni Spotlight feature this month. Kevin Roberts graduated from East Jordan High School in 2003. He received a Bachelor Degree in Plastics Engineering Technology and a MBA from Ferris State University.

Kevin is currently employed as a Process Engineer in the Plastics Division of Shape Corporation in Grand Haven. Shape Corporation is a global, full-service supplier of lightweight steel, aluminum, plastic composite and hybrid solutions for the automotive and industrial markets. They make components for General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, Tesla, Nissan and others. On a day to day basis, Kevin is involved in all aspects of a plastic part - from development, quoting, and launching new products.

In 2013, Kevin married Kristi (Werner) who is also an East Jordan graduate. They have three children, Mollie 8, Grady, 4 and Bryce, 2. The family is very active and they keep busy playing all types of games outside. In their spare time, they enjoy attending sporting events and traveling. Kevin is happy to say that they are able to visit East Jordan quite often, especially in the summer months visiting their parents and siblings.

"Having kids who will be starting school has really made me think back on my time at EJPS", Kevin said. "I think one of the great things about going to school in a small town is knowing everyone in your grade/class. I can't really imagine going to a school with thousands of kids. I really enjoyed participating in football, basketball and baseball. Representing the community with a great group of friends during games was a great experience. I also really enjoyed Drafting/CAD with Mr. Cross and Woodshop with Mr. Gee. It's no surprise that some of the skills I learned in those classes are used in my career today. I wouldn't trade going to school at EJPS for anything. We still have a hard time trading in our East Jordan Red Devil Gear for the Grand Haven Buccaneers'!

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

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

Vocational-Technical Student of the Month  
Austin Drew

Congratulations to East Jordan senior, Austin Drew, for being selected by the Career Technical Education faculty as the October 2018 Vocational - Technical Education Student of the Month! Austin is currently enrolled in Career Technical courses in Welding and Automotive Technology and plans to pursue a career as a certified industrial pipe welder.

Austin is the son of Debbie & Gary Drew. In his spare time, Austin enjoys hunting, fishing and welding.