



David Starr Jordan Middle School

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Monthly Newsletter Sponsored by the Jordan PTA

January 2010

Principal's Message

Dear Jordan Families:

We're halfway through the year! The second semester will begin on Monday, January 25, and first semester grades will be put in the mail to you on February 1st. Should you or your student be surprised by one or more grades that are lower than expected, I encourage you take advantage of the situation as a learning opportunity for your student. Think of middle school as a 3-year "on ramp" for high school. It's as good a time as any for students to work on their individual responsibility, make mistakes, and learn from them. As always, our teachers and counselors are available to work with you in these efforts.

Feedback to Staff

In the spirit of learning, January is "feedback month" here at Jordan. Staff is providing our administrative team with feedback, students have been given opportunities in each class to provide anonymous feedback to the teachers, and we are asking for your input as well. At the end of this Journal, there is a parent feedback form for staff. We encourage you to provide us with feedback, both compliments and suggestions for improvement. Although the form is designed for teacher performance, you are welcome to use the form for counselors or administrators.

School Climate

Jordan's preliminary results from the Palo Alto Reality Check student survey this fall are positive, showing incremental improvement across board. This data will be verified, analyzed in more depth, and published to the community in mid-February. But initially, the data indicates that we are continuing to maintain a very positive and safe climate for students. Along these lines, we are planning **a parent night on cybercitizenship on Wednesday, February 3, at 7pm** in the Jordan Library. Come learn how to support your student's responsible use of electronic communication as they become increasingly independent (from you) and "connected" to others via media that have potential permanence.

Science Night

I would also like to thank the organizers for last week's Science Night: teachers Tami Warr and Sarah Pierce and parent Susan Bailey. We had 40 student projects entered by 56 students at all grade levels, which was a significant increase from last year's participation. At the event, students and families engaged in exciting demonstrations from local science organizations, parent volunteers, and graduate students from Stanford University. (One of my favorites was holding a fluorescent light bulb a few inches from a strong electric charge and having it glow.) What impressed me most was the students' level of engagement. They truly owned their science projects and earnestly explored topics of interest to them. Great stuff!

Last, I thank you for your support. Middle school education is a collective effort, and we couldn't do it without you.

Sincerely,

Michael Milliken
mmilliken@pausd.org

President's Corner

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a nice relaxing winter break. I have been a volunteer for most of my life and I have had the opportunity to be involved with many different groups.

One of the most meaningful volunteer jobs for me has been in being a member of Project Safety Net. This group is a community-wide task force that was set-up after the recent tragic suicides in our town. Led by Rob de Geus of the City of Palo Alto and Carol Zepecki of PAUSD, we are working very hard to provide parents and other members of the community with as much information as possible with regards to teen mental health support.

Project Safety Net is comprised of a large group of individuals, who represent many facets of our community. This group includes people from the mental health arena, the faith community, the City of Palo Alto, the School District, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, ACS, YCS, PTA Council and Stanford Hospital just to name a few. Our three main areas of focus are, Parent Education, Prevention and Intervention.

There is a Project Safety Net website that you can go to for more information:

www.cityofpaloalto.org/safetynet

There is a calendar of events (thank you PTA Council) that you can refer to in order to see upcoming Parent Ed events etc.

If you have any questions or comments regarding any information about the group our website, please feel free to contact me.

Thank You

Pat Markevitch

Thank you Volunteers!

I would like to thank the following volunteers who helped with the Jordan/Paly band festival on October 27th:

Laura Wolfe, Kim Cool, Annette deStefano, Jane Gee, Stefani Grothe, Ken Hake, Susan Spangler, Julianne Stafford, Crindy Stormer and Jill Touloukian.

If you have chaired any recent events and would like to acknowledge your volunteers, please send me the list and I will include them in the next Journal. Thank You.

Pat Markevitch

Jordan Drama

THE MOUSE THAT ROARED

The Jordan Drama Department presents The Mouse That Roared as its winter play directed by our favorite guest director, Bill Olson. It's a hilarious farce, popularized by the Peter Sellers movie, about a tiny, undeveloped country that declares war on the United States to receive financial restitution, and ends up winning! By the end there are lessons learned but no sour grapes. There will be barrels of absurdity and laughter for the whole family!

Thursday, Feb. 25 - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 26 - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 27 - 2:30 p.m.

Jordan Cafetorium - Theatre 750 No. California Avenue, Palo Alto 94303

Tickets: \$5.00 Students / \$10.00 Adults

Tickets will be sold in front of the school in the mornings starting Monday Feb. 22, and also in Hugh Center Court at lunch.

Any questions, contact Lee Ann Gray at lgray@pausd.org.

Newsworthy Art

First semester Multimedia Art students finally completed their clay animations, a very tedious and precise project combining many aesthetic skills. They sculpted characters, painted sets, and then animated the characters using a digital camera and iStop Motion software. Students produced clever and entertaining videos based on their interests and unique perspectives. They worked in groups and collaborated on all aspects of their productions from the initial storyboard to the final music dubbing in GarageBand and editing and transitions in iMovie.

See the J-Tube website to view the clay animations online:

http://www.jordan.pausd.org/department/public/art_mmart08_10/claymation1_2010/index.html

First semester Art 1A students recently studied the art of Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth, artists whose work concentrated on the use of abstract form. The project activity involved creating a form using flexible wire that was fastened to a wooden base. After the student created an interesting form by bending and looping the wire, a nylon stocking was stretched over the wire and over the base. The stocking was then coated with several coats of acrylic primer and then a glue and water mixture, allowed to dry, and then painted with multiple coats of acrylic paint in a design of the student's choosing.

(Student Images on Page 5)

Music Notes

Jordan music organizations are now preparing for their assembly programs in the PAUSD elementary schools. The Symphonic Band, and Choir will tour on January 28; Concert Band and Orchestra on February 5.

Other scheduled performances and activities include:

Jan. 28: Tour to elementary schools (Symphonic Band/Choir)

Feb. 5: Tour to elementary schools (Advanced Band/Orchestra)

Feb. 24: Jordan/Paly Jazz Band Concert 7:30 @ Paly

March 3: Jordan/JLS/Terman Combo Choir Concert 7:00 @ JLS

March 4: Orchestra Concert 7:00 @ Jordan

March 17: Band Concert 7:00 & 8:15 @ Jordan

March 27: Music Teachers' Scholarship Concert & Art Show 4:00 @ Gunn

April 23/24: CMEA Band Festival @ Gunn (Symphonic Band) TBA

May 5: Honor Band/Choir/Orchestra Festival 7:00 @ Gunn

May 27: Orchestra/Choir Concert 7:00 @ Jordan

June 2: Band Concert in Hugh Center Court 6:30 @ Jordan

Check out the Paly/Jordan Jazz Band Concert at Paly on February 24th at 7:30 p.m. at Paly.

We thank you for your continued support of our program.

Vivian Boudreaux/David Brigham	<i>Band Directors</i>
Sarah Cane	<i>Choir Director</i>
Janet Lynch-Gillespie	<i>Orchestra Director</i>
Nancy Coffey	<i>Music Coordinator</i>

Students of the Month

The theme for December was “Sense of Humor”.

8th grade

Matthew Abbott
Jamie Allendorf
Matthew Craig
Max Eberhart
Jonathan Friduss
Nicholas Fuller
Alexander Hammer
James Hindery-Nelson
Sean Keegan
Anthony Lim
Sarah Limb
Shivonne Logan
Alexander Loktev
Jonathan Makris
Jesse Martinez
Richard Nguyen
Alan Oesterle
Lucienne Oyer
Laura Rodriguez
Anthony Rogge
Megan Tall
Felicia Wang
Natasha Wein
Emma Wolfe
Hillel Zand.

7th grade

Aris Azarmsa
Galen Byrd
Maximilian Dees
Saar Doley

Rachel Dukes-Schlosberg
Zane Fields
Clark Harmon
Felix Ibarra
Arnulfo Munoz-Gonzales
Heide Ohms
Amanda Pizarro
Nihar Pol
Lisa Marie Rogge
Brooke Santana
Grant Smith
Jared Stillman
Arin Tai-Seale
Joshua Torres
Tess Van Hulsen
Wilson Wang
Simon Wood

6th grade

Riley Cantwell
Eric Griswold
Dozianay Hall
Ren Makino
Anant Marur
Eric Oshima
Margaret Rosenthal
Matthew Seligson
Yechan Shin
Roberto Sotelo
Helen Yan



