



Artwork: Middle Class student

Lasting Legacy

This past April, Cathy Mohan shared news of her June 30, 2018, retirement. Her husband Joe will retire along with her. Cathy and Joe Mohan have been committed to Japhet School for nearly 30 years. Cathy has served as Middle Class teacher, Director of Studies, and for the last 13 years, has served as Head of School. Joe has served as a PE teacher, Parent Support Group president, Facility Director, and Technology Director.

Before they retire, Cathy and Joe are committed to providing a much-needed, lasting gift to secure Japhet School's prosperity ... but they can't do it alone.

Joe Mohan and the Board of Trustees are proud to cooperatively launch the Cathy & Joe Mohan Legacy Campaign. Its goals: first, to pay off the mortgage, second, to pay off the bridge loan, and lastly, to set up a scholarship fund. Joe and Cathy have already initiated the campaign with a pledge of \$25,000.

"Our love of Japhet encouraged us to start this campaign so Japhet can prosper and grow forever," Joe writes. "The most significant and rewarding event in Japhet's past was the purchase of our own building. As we depart we'd like to honor Japhet and invite the community to join us by donating enough funds to free Japhet of a mortgage."

The impact of being debt-free, especially as a nonprofit, is significant to the whole Japhet community. Eliminating mortgage debt will enable us to:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 31

Japhet's fiscal year ends

SEPTEMBER 6

First day of school

OCTOBER 25

18 Reasons for Hope luncheon

NOVEMBER 9

Spaghetti Supper & Family Service Night

NOVEMBER 22

Gratitude Service

DECEMBER 13 & 14

Holiday Giving

Reflecting on Leadership

“A leader needs to have more than a good heart; they need to inspire the hearts of others.” — Simon Sinek

Each year I have the privilege of teaching a Leadership Class to our 7th- and 8th-grade students. This longstanding Japhet tradition provides our older students with the opportunity to understand what leadership, based on character, really means. Here are a few reflections from Upper Class students:

What makes a good leader?

Student reflection: “A good leader is someone who takes responsibility and helps the group succeed. It’s someone who can lead with kindness, consideration, responsibility and understanding. A person who takes charge without using force and who is respectful of others.”



“Leaders aren’t born; they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work.”
— Vince Lombardi

Student reflection: “I’m inspired by this quote because it means there is not only one chance to be a leader. Each day is a new chance.”

“If there is no wind, row.”
— Latin Proverb

Student reflection: “If there are not people who are going to guide you to start something, you have to do it yourself. This quote urges me to act, to express initiative, and it is straight to the point.”

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”
— John Quincy Adams

Student reflection: “I think once you start something that has a positive impact and inspires others you should

try and continue it. This will inspire more and more people to act as leaders and there will be a positive impact on the world.”

Do you think Leadership Class should continue to be taught at Japhet?

Student reflection: “Yes, I think it’s important because students can learn about what being a leader is all about. Students also learn something about themselves they didn’t already know. This class boosts confidence and teaches valuable lessons.”

Students learn about leadership through classroom discussions and activities that require self-awareness, teamwork, and cooperation to accomplish. While my intent is to inspire them to consciously think about leading and to rise to the opportunities to practice leadership, I find myself inspired by their insights.

Cathy Mohan, Head of School

Embracing friendships with those older and younger is a special quality of Japhet students and great training for leadership.

Board of Trustees, 2017/2018

DAN COMMER XJ’88 has been elected to serve on Japhet’s Board of Trustees for a three-year term beginning with 2017/2018. Dan and his three siblings are Japhet alumni, and his father Kent has served on the Board for many years. Dan is also an alumnus of Camp Leelanau for boys, a character-building camp in northern Michigan. Dan works for a non-profit in Southwest Detroit, where he is involved in community outreach and economic development. He recently graduated Wayne State University with a B.A in Urban Studies, and he will attend the University of Michigan for grad school. “It is because of our family’s gratitude for all that Japhet has given

us that I am compelled to accept an opportunity to give back,” Dan says. Moving forward, Frank Edwards will continue as president, Sheila Chaps as vice-president, and Jay Schmitt as treasurer. Erik Golbiw has accepted the position of secretary. Susie Auten, Don Button, Denise Deane, Esther Dusenberry, Cheryl Haithco, Bruce Kasl, Victoria Lehman, Martha Moyer, Kerri Vizena, and Dr. John White complete the full Board of Trustees for 2017/2018. A biography of each trustee is on our website.

We extend sincere gratitude to Kent Commer and Libby Palackdharry who have completed their terms.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FORE THE KIDS

Please join us as we sincerely thank this year’s sponsors of our Fore the Kids Golf Outing. It was a beautiful day on the links for the 70+ golfers who participated! **Cranbrook Art Museum and Straightline** were our event sponsors, **DENSO** was our cart sponsor, and another 15 individuals and companies stepped up as hole sponsors and advertisers.

Goal-Getters

Japhet School's Class of 2017



From left: Audrey Schulz, Kate Nelson, Logan Wrona, Isabel Fleischaker, Livia Hetes, Olivia Seitz, and Owen Perry

Our seven June graduates — who each consistently earned Special Honors — are exemplars of students who take responsibility for their learning, embrace their character education, and are ready to assume leadership roles in high school.

"I'd like to express my gratitude to all the graduates for being such positive role models for the younger students," said Kevin Smith, this year's graduation speaker. "As a parent of a younger Japhet student, your conduct as upperclassmen and women is greatly appreciated."

ISABEL FLEISCHAKER

This was Isabel's second year at Japhet. Isabel enjoys dancing, horseback riding, playing the piano, and participating in Girl Scouts. English is Isabel's third language; she also speaks Spanish and Mum, a native Mayan language. Isabel's classmates view her as kind, honest, and funny, and teachers describe her as reliable, courageous, polite, and as a young person of substance. Isabel's mom credits Japhet

School as the place that allowed Isabel to grow into her own skin and become a confident, independent thinker. Isabel's advice to younger students is, "Don't be afraid to be yourself, you don't need to be someone else, only you can be you." Isabel is attending the Henry Ford Academy for high school.

LIVIA HETES

Livia started attending Japhet as a 6th-grade student. Livia is graceful, poised, creative, and thoughtful. She expresses initiative, compassion, punctuality, and has an ever-ready smile. She loves to dance and performs ballet, jazz, and musical theater. Livia's teachers describe her as reliable, honest and humble. Livia's parents associate the character qualities of self-control and good judgment with Livia. When at the dance studio for hours she is focused and still completes all her homework. While at Japhet Livia has developed a passion for writing and has built up confidence in public speaking. She plans to attend the Berkley High School Scholars Program in the fall.

OWEN PERRY

Owen joined Japhet in 6th grade. He enjoys acting, which would be clear to anyone who's seen Spring Sharing plays. Owen also performs with Stagecrafters Youth Theater. He radiates joy and has a zest for life. Owen is an avid reader and skilled soccer player, and he has a passion for science. Owen's parents believe that Japhet provided the opportunity for Owen to speak his mind in a safe, open, environment, and that Japhet encourages creative thinking. Owen has two favorite quotes: "Work hard now, play hard later," from his dad, and "There is always a way you can improve," from teacher Mr. Mohan. Owen plans to attend International Academy.

AUDREY SCHULZ

Audrey enrolled in Japhet as a 6th-grade student. Audrey is especially noted for her expression of respect for others. She embraces others, is not quick to judge, and puts the needs of others before her own. She is kind, compassionate, supportive, friendly, and sincere. Audrey enjoys horseback riding, is a

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- Direct funds to meet the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan, which was carefully written with input from the Japhet community. With a sustained future in mind, its specific goals require financial support.
- Keep tuition affordable and reduce amount of fundraising needed.
- Implement a building maintenance fund for the ongoing care of and improvements to our facility.

Joe and the Board of Trustees plan a broad engagement of this campaign. **Trustees encourage the whole community to donate at unprecedented levels not only to preserve Japhet’s future, but also to honor Cathy and Joe as they retire.**

If the mortgage and bridge loan are paid off, Japhet trustees will create the Cathy & Joe Mohan Legacy Fund, which will provide additional student scholarships. Cathy and Joe will provide a seed donation to the fund, in addition to their pledge to help pay off the mortgage.

“Japhet School is rooted in the support of a strong community of families, faculty, staff, trustees, and donors who embrace Japhet’s mission and philosophy,” Cathy writes. “I have been inspired by the commitment of this community ... and I am confident that the school will continue to prosper. It is not easy to leave a place to which my husband Joe and I are so deeply devoted, both professionally and personally. Japhet is a treasure.”

Cathy and Joe have shared their future plans: son Jake (J’03) and daughter-in-law Shé welcomed baby Eli in December — Cathy and Joe’s first grandchild. The opportunity to spend more time with their family and to explore life as farmers in beautiful Avoca, Michigan, awaits them in July of 2018. Until then, important work is underway to fulfill their lasting legacy to sustain Japhet School for generations to come.



“It has been a wonderful journey, these 45 years,” Joe writes, speaking of Japhet’s whole history. “We have enjoyed being in this community for 30 of them, and we are committed to being a part of it for as long as we can.”

The Transition Process

A search for our new Head of School is well underway. A search committee of trustees, faculty, staff, and parents will interview potential candidates and make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees hires the Head of School and plans to provide opportunities for the Japhet community to meet these candidates before the process concludes.

As timing allows, there will be an overlap period for Cathy Mohan and the new Head to work cooperatively. The new Head of School will officially begin his or her independent leadership of Japhet School on July 1, 2018.

The Board of Trustees is very appreciative of Cathy’s support in the transition process. The critical and generous advance notice she gave will allow for this to be as seamless as possible.

As of this publication date, we are still accepting nominations. Interested candidates should contact Board President Frank Edwards at japhet@japhetschool.org.

A Look at the Numbers — August 1, 2017

Payoff amount on mortgage, first priority: \$330,000*

Payoff amount on bridge loan, second priority: \$380,000

If both goals are met by June 30, 2018, trustees will establish the **Cathy & Joe Mohan Legacy Fund** for student scholarships.

* this amount already factors in the \$200,000 match — which we have met!

CUT AND RETURN TO: JAPHET SCHOOL, 839 S. CROOKS RD., CLAWSON, MI 48017



The JAPHET SCHOOL Annual Giving Fund

Please accept my gift of \$ _____ to the Annual Giving Fund
 I'd like to give an additional \$ _____ to the Cathy & Joe Mohan Legacy Campaign
 TOTAL: \$ _____ amount enclosed, OR
 divide into _____ monthly payments of \$ _____

I'll give by: Check Visa AmEx Mastercard
 _____ card #
 _____ expiration _____ security code
 _____ signature

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

- My employer will match my gift. (Please obtain a form from your HR office and include it with your contribution.)
- Please do not publish my name as a donor.

Please consider an additional gift to the Cathy & Joe Mohan Legacy Campaign.

“Our love of Japhet encouraged us to start this campaign so Japhet can prosper and grow forever.”

— Joe Mohan

Major gifts are a great help, but donations of all sizes are greatly appreciated. Japhet School is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your gift is tax-deductible. Thank you!

Alumni News

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

SETH ATISHA XJ'13 University of Detroit Jesuit HS (4-yr First Honors Certificate, Fr. Karl J. Kiser SJ Award for service of faith and promotion of justice, JustPeace.org, Bowling, Swimming, Varsity Tennis, Mackinac and El Salvador mission trips, Washington DC Ignatian Youth Conference). Canisius College.



SETH ATISHA XJ'13 and parents.

MALLORY DEMETER J'13 Mercy HS (Magna Cum Laude, NHS, Phi Beta Kappa, President's Education Award, Varsity Cross Country, Drama and Musical Productions, Volunteer with Boys and Girls Club). University of Michigan.



The **DEMETER** family.

WYATT GAGE XJ'13 Wyatt graduated from the University of Detroit Jesuit HS in May 2016. He's now in his sophomore year at Wayne State University studying physics. He's a member of the Honors College Community of Scholars, through which he gives at least 15 hours of service per semester.

IAN GAPPY XJ'13 Shrine HS (Summa Cum Laude, NHS, 100 Service Hour Award,

Varsity Soccer - Captain with All Catholic and All League honors, Varsity Basketball - All League honors and Catholic League champions). Michigan State University for Business.



IAN GAPPY XJ'13.

GRETA JOHNSON - XJ'13 The Principia Upper School, St. Louis, MO (National Cum Laude Society, Merilee Kimbrough Theater Award, Sr. Class VP and a House Captain). Principia College for Theatre, Dance and Spanish.



The **JOHNSON** family.

AMARI MATHIS J'13 Groves HS; Principia College.



AMARI MATHIS J'13 and Fran Bachmann, his aunt.

KAITLIN MCBRIDE XJ'13 Grosse Pointe South HS (Phi Beta Kappa with Honors, Spanish Honors Society and involved in Peer to Peer, volunteers with Crossroads Soup Kitchen, COTS, service trip to Thailand to teach English to under-privileged children). Clemson University for Biochemistry.



The **MCBRIDE** family.

GRANT MCNAUGHTON XJ'13 Interlochen Arts Academy with a major in motion picture arts. Grant plans to return to Interlochen for a post-graduate year.



GRANT MCNAUGHTON J'13.

ANN NELSON J'13 Mercy HS (NHS, Interlochen Screenwriting Fine Arts Award, Community Service Award, co-founder of the Cultural Cuisine Club, Female Empowerment Club, Theater Program with U of D). Sarah Lawrence College for Screenwriting and Filmmaking: Ann was recently selected to take place in the SLC's Pre-Orientation Service Program where she'll be tending to gardens and teaching kids around New York City.



ANN NELSON J'13.

COLLEGE GRADUATIONS

JOSHUA JACKSON J'06 Michigan State University, BS in Physiology. Joshua will enter med school at Medical College of Wisconsin this fall.

MARIYAH JACKSON J'07 Florida A&M University, BS in Biology, Minor in Chemistry. Mariyah will attend the College of Public Health of the Florida university system as a pre-med student. She recently returned from a medical mission trip to Guyana, where students set up clinics and brought suitcases filled with medication and medical instruments for their hospitals.



MARIYAH JACKSON J'07.

LAUREN VIVIAN XJ'08 American University, Washington DC. BSBA with a specialization in Marketing. Currently has in an internship with Weber Shandwick and plans to stay in the DC area.



LAUREN VIVIAN XJ'08.

AMELIA STECKER J'09 Eastern Michigan University, BS Linguistics (Summa Cum Laude and Honors College Fellow. Spanish minor. Amelia earned several academic scholarships and travel awards, and she studied a semester abroad at the University of Oxford). Amelia accepted a 5-year fellowship to pursue her PhD in Linguistics at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.



JAPHET SCHOOL

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ALUMNI NEWS

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PRESCHOOLERS IN TRAINING

SARAH MCNAUGHTON XJ'08

welcomes son **Remington Ford** born in May 2017. Sarah spent some time in NYC last year working for a fashion designer, and she completed a study program in Philadelphia in the hospitality industry. Her current plans and focus are solely centered on Remington.



SARAH MCNAUGHTON XJ'08 and son, REMINGTON FORD.

LEANNE (RAYMOND) J'06 and **BEN ROBINSON J'00** welcome daughter **Ilamay Jean** born in May 2017. Ilamay can be found traveling to farmers' markets with her family.



ILAMAY, daughter of LEANNE J'06 and BEN ROBINSON J'00.

BETHANY (RAYMOND) J'02

and **Jacob King** welcome **Arwynn Luna** born in April 2017. She is joyously and lovingly embraced by the whole family including her siblings **Aiden** and **Annabelle**.



ARWYNN LUNA, AIDEN, and ANNABELLE, children of BETHANY (RAYMOND) J'02 and Jacob King.

Japhet School Class of 2017

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4-H member, and volunteers at a local farm. Audrey is a 9-year Girl Scout and has earned the Silver Award. Audrey's parents feel Audrey has grown more confident and independent in the three years she's attended Japhet. Audrey plans to attend Shrine Catholic High School in the fall, and is looking forward to trying new things.

OLIVIA SEITZ

Olivia started attending Japhet in 4th grade. She is empathetic, creative, and brave. Olivia is a talented songwriter and singer, and she practices piano, ukulele, and violin. Olivia's teachers describe her as conscientious, insightful, and industrious. Olivia is determined to do well in everything she does, from singing to running. She is an insightful writer and strong mathematician. Olivia's parents feel Japhet's character education has made her a strong public speaker by allowing her to integrate her interests into her studies. Olivia plans to attend Bishop Foley in the fall. She is looking forward to joining the robotics team and auditioning for school musicals.

KATE NELSON

Kate entered Japhet as a 2nd-grader. She enjoys playing softball, swimming, biking, and cooking. Kate's classmates describe her as caring, smart, honest, funny, and joyful. Kate was Mrs. Butler's "assistant director" for

Spring Sharing, speaking to her organizational skills. She also has a special talent in the kitchen and has put in many extra hours with Mrs. Pospisil. Kate is always willing to help and is considerate of others. Kate's parents feel Kate has transformed into a confident and responsible young woman. The hard-working and caring teachers and staff make Japhet a truly special place and ideal foundation for Kate's future successes at Mercy High School and beyond.

LOGAN WRONA

Logan has been a Japhet student since 1st grade. Logan cares about the world. He is thrifty and encourages others to express thrift on a daily basis. Logan's teachers describe him as logical, inquisitive, creative, and thoughtful. His favorite subject is science. Logan has practiced piano since he was 3, and he enjoys drawing, collecting stamps, playing the ukulele, and running. Logan placed second in this year's Lakeshore Optimist Club's Oratorical Contest. Logan wrote that happiness inspires progress. Logan's family is proud of his ability to express initiative. Logan plans to attend the Berkley High School Scholars Program in September.

"Your Japhet education and your character qualities will provide you with a tremendous advantage as you continue on in your careers," Kevin Smith summarized. Congratulations to our tremendous Class of 2017!

ALUMNI! Please update your information: Go to japhetschool.org, click "Alumni," then "Update Your Information."

SHARE WITH US!

Do You Have Alumni News to Share? Contact Robin Pospisil, Admissions Director at robin.pospisil@japhetschool.org. Also connect on [f](#) and [in](#)!