



JAPHET SCHOOL

Award-winning National School of Character

FALL 2011

A Place in Pictures

The 2011/2012 school year is off to a strong start, with five new faculty and staff members, new classroom settings, and increased enrollment to 85 students!

Japhet School's mission is to nurture and prepare each child for life by integrating character education with a strong academic program.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 27, for our annual 18 Reasons for Hope event. Invite a friend or colleague to join us for an hour of inspiration and a free luncheon. It is a fundraising event and guests will be asked to make a contribution; however, there is no pressure to give.

It will take place at the Club Venetian in Madison Heights. The program will begin at noon and end at 1 PM.

To reserve your place, contact Cheryl Haitco at cheryl.haitco@japhetschool.org or call 248-585-9150.

18 Reasons for
HOPE
Join Us October 27!

 Find Japhet School and Like us on FB.



Upper Class has moved into the centrally located multi-purpose room. UC students' classroom layout includes a touch-sensitive SmartBoard, comfortable spaces for reading and listening (pictured), laptop computers, and separate areas to write and collaborate.



September 21 was International Peace Day. All Japhet students planted their "Pinwheels for Peace" outside the school with drawings and words about peace. Before planting, Art teacher Marti Minard read a peace poem and asked students to pause for a quiet moment for reflection.



Intermediate and Upper Class students made their annual trek to the Leelanau Outdoor Center, which included physical challenges and team-building initiatives. The lessons learned at LOC prepare them for a peaceful and cooperative year together.



Middle Class students began their science studies by working in pairs to investigate fallen leaves with black spots on them. They recorded their observations based on sight, smell, and touch, then went for a walk around Japhet to seek out more trees with similar leaves.



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

new

new – adj. 9. different and better of physical and moral qualities.

source: <http://dictionary.reference.com>.

This is a school year of new beginnings, new adventures, and new discoveries. We have new teachers and new families joining us, classrooms in new spaces, and new routines.

The first week of school I spent time in each of our seven classrooms and loved what I saw. I observed Upper Class acclimate to the new space Susan Butler created for them, routines being established with Lauren Jones and her students in our new Primary 2 classroom, and Preschoolers learning from Lynn Koch how to pronounce the ukulele's name in a new-sounding but correct way, reflecting its Hawaiian origin: *oo-koo-lay-lay*, not *you-koo-lay-lee*.

Five new teachers have joined us, and what a great time it is to have fresh perspectives among our Japhet team. 2011/2012 is the year we write our Self-Study for our fourth accreditation by ISACS: the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. The Self-Study calls us to celebrate yet also scrutinize our school. From art to admissions, school governance to global studies, we will identify the strengths, challenges, and priorities of every facet of Japhet School. Writing the Self-Study is a year-long task that will call for work over-and-above the school day, but it's well worth it: for not only will it result in our reaccreditation, but it also will give us the opportunity to celebrate what we do best and make plans for improvement.

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes." ~ Marcel Proust

Cathy Mohan
cathy.mohan@japhetschool.org

"With each new year, we grow. We critique, we analyze, and we develop. Great schools will always look forward and enrich their program. I am proud that while we grow in program, we remain true to our mission. Japhet cherishes childhood, cultivates wonder, and inspires confident learners and leaders. We live our mission each day, and we think carefully about individuals. We differentiate, we are flexible, and we care. Often when schools focus on specifics, they forget to remain true to the greater good – the mission of the school. Japhet remains true."

Julie Knaffla
President, Board of Trustees

Fore! the Kids Golf Outing 2011

Japhet friends enjoyed a beautiful day on the links on August 29 during our annual golf outing at Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak. We thank our wonderful sponsors: Sun Steel Treating Inc., Denso International America, PVS Chemicals, Inc., and MJA Graphic Network. We also thank Cadillac Loose Leaf Products, the Berryman Family, and the Edwards family for supporting the program. These generous retailers and restaurants donated to our silent auction, making it a success: Royal Oak Golf Center, Maalouf Beauty Salon, Golfsmith Golf and Tennis, Carl's Golfland, Maggiano's, Due Venti, Big Rock Chop House, Goldfish Swim School, Equilibrium, and Chef Mary Spencer. Our auction was a success with donations from individuals as well.

Prizes for first-, second-, and third-place scores, longest drive (men and women), and closest-to-the-pin (men and women) added fun to the outing. Congratulations to the winners!

All this was possible with the volunteer efforts of staff, parents, and trustees who served on the Golf Outing Committee. Stay tuned for the date and venue of next year's event: the 2012 Fore the Kids Golf Outing!



A kind golfer gives our volunteer student host, a Japhet School second-grader, some putting pointers.

new faculty & staff

Nancy Flores is excited to teach her first language of Spanish to Japhet School students! Señora Flores also teaches Spanish to students at Christ the King K-8 Lutheran School in Southgate, where she initiated a Spanish language program six years ago. Señora Flores is originally from Puerto Rico, where she earned a bachelor's and master's degree at the University of Turabo. "I look forward to being a part of Japhet School's success and helping students become the leaders with character and integrity," says Señora Flores. "Focusing on character education will help me grow as well as the students." All Japhet students have Spanish with Señora Flores.



Cristin Graham is our new Integrated Technology teacher and Library Assistant. Mrs. Graham taught at Friends School in Detroit as a first-grade teacher and multimedia specialist. She has taught in Clarkston, Royal Oak, and Troy schools. Mrs. Graham has a B.S. in Art from Western Michigan University, a post-degree teaching certificate from U of D Mercy, and a Master's Degree in Child Development from Michigan State. Mrs. Graham says she sees Japhet's mission in action at our INSPO character assembly: "I was really excited when students started presenting. What confidence!" She fully embraces the philosophy of independent schools and has joined Japhet's Self-Study Steering Committee for our ISACS re-accreditation.

Lauren Jones teaches second grade (Primary 2). She was educated in an independent school, graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a B.S. in Elementary Education with emphasis on Math and Science, and now is pursuing a graduate degree at Oakland University. "I love the sense of community here at Japhet," says Mrs. Jones. "The staff works so well together, all because we have a common goal: to educate children in both character and academic excellence. It is wonderful to have a team of parents, students and staff all working together to present the students with a balanced approach to education."



Lynn Koch met our students last winter, when she performed as part of the Musica Batteria percussion duo! Miss Koch has taught music for 30 years in Michigan schools and Hawaii schools. She is a percussionist with the Birmingham Bloomfield, Warren, and Michigan Philharmonic orchestras. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Michigan and has completed graduate work at U-M, Oakland University, and Eastern Michigan University. "Japhet's mission-in-action is evident," says Miss Koch. "I see it in the modeling of respect and support for all students by the staff. There are high expectations that everyone shares in the carrying out of the mission of Japhet."

Anne Zibell is our After-school Care Director, and also is serving as our long-term Kindergarten substitute. Anne worked the past four years as a third-grade teacher in North Carolina. Miss Zibell has a passion for differentiated instruction. She holds a Bachelor of Elementary Education degree from Eastern Michigan University and has begun work toward a master's degree. "I am so happy to be a part of the Japhet community!" says Miss Zibell. "The Kindergarten classroom is full of activity and fun! Each day, I enjoy seeing how proud the students are of themselves when they demonstrate their learning."



other announcements:

Jacque Litton, who was our After-School Care Director for many years, has taken the full-time position of Administrative Assistant in Japhet's front office.

We give a heartfelt congratulations to **Megan Partridge** and her husband Ty on the birth of a healthy baby boy, Garrett, in September. Mrs. Partridge spent three weeks with her new Kindergartners before the baby arrived. We wish Mrs. Partridge a peaceful maternity leave with her infant son, who joins big brother Grant, a Japhet student. Mrs. Partridge plans to return to teach Kindergarten later in the year.

Alumni News

Japhet's fifth- through eighth-grade students who attended the LOC (Leelanau Outdoor Center) trip in September enjoyed a warm welcome from a crew of Japhet alumni who are working at the camp this fall. Greeting our students were **Kathleen Moyer XJ'98**, **Jake Mohan J'03**, **Fred Morrison XJ'01**, and **Max Warner XJ'02**. It was a real treat for the students to work with these young adults who have all learned, experienced, and put to use Japhet's character qualities in their lives. They shared memories of teachers and activities with the current students and chaperones.



Japhet alumni working at Leelanau Outdoor Center, fall 2011: Kathleen Moyer XJ'98, Jake Mohan J'03, Fred Morrison XJ'01, and Max Warner XJ'02

Fred Morrison XJ'01

Fred Morrison started his Japhet career as an infant in the Japhet School daycare where his mom Bonnie was a caregiver in 1987. While he may not remember much of those earliest days, he certainly has fond memories of his Preschool and Kindergarten career. Fred and his family moved to Princeton, New Jersey, after leaving Japhet in 1993. He attended Principia College and graduated in 2009 with a degree in mass communications. He attended Camp Leelanau during the summer each year since 1999 and has worked as a counselor for the past several years. MoMo, as he is known at LOC, was a counselor for us this year and referenced lessons he learned at Japhet. He fondly remembers Spring Sharing performances, and he shared with our students that he credits Kindergarten teacher Susan Ellithorpe with helping him to establish and express "an attitude of gratitude." Fred says he works to maintain and practice this attitude daily.

Do you have alumni news to share? Please send news and photos to Robin Pospisil, Admissions Director at robin.pospisil@japhetschool.org.

GJS & PSG: A-OK!

For the 2011 re-enrollment season the **Grandparents of Japhet School (GJS)** used their membership fees and donations to provide a \$500 scholarship to a returning Japhet student in second through eighth grade. This school year, they plan to continue the scholarship and are considering adding a second one. GJS also is making plans for their second "Book-It" event on February 7, 2012, a special event to raise funds for new science textbooks.

The Parent Support Group (PSG) creates a supportive community for its members, supports the activities of the school with fundraising and volunteerism, and sponsors workshops and social activities. This year's fundraising activities – which anyone can support – include Great American Opportunities, Kroger Cares Card, Hollywood Market Apples for the Students, Funfunds from Gordon Foods, My Coke Rewards, Campbell's Soup Labels and Box Tops, ETCEP Cartridge Program, and Target Credit Card.

The PSG and GJS expect another great year of supporting Japhet students and teachers. We sincerely thank our parent and grandparent community for their loyal support!

Learn more about these programs by visiting japhetschool.org. Just go to "Grandparents Club" or "Parent Support Group" under the the "Support Us" tab.



JAPHET SCHOOL

31201 Dorchester, Madison Heights, MI 48071

Support
Japhet's
Art Classes!



Enjoy a year of original Japhet student artwork, inspiring quotes, and character quality definitions. A 2012 Japhet School calendar will be available soon.

Call for details!

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