



Fall 2009

## The Mission of Japhet School



*Japhet School nurtures and prepares each child for life by integrating character education with a strong academic program.*

## Upcoming Events:

- November 5: 18 Reasons for Hope Luncheon
- November 13: Social Studies Fair
- November 25: Gratitude Service
- December 10-11: Christmas Giving
- December 17: Creative Kids Spaghetti Dinner

# Japhet School

31201 Dorchester • Madison Heights, MI 48071 • 248/585-9150 • [www.japhetschool.org](http://www.japhetschool.org)

## Message from the Head of School



It is a joy to be at Japhet! Students are engaged in learning and readily facing challenges with courage and thoughtfulness. Teachers are sharing information with creativity, enthusiasm and in a variety of ways that support different learning styles. Staff members are working to foster an environment in which the entire school community feels safe, nurtured, and respected.

The 2009/2010 school year promises to be full of discovery. New technology tools are being used to support student collaboration and to develop digital citizenship. Writer's workshop methods are inspiring young authors to explore ideas. Individualized math and reading groups allow students to learn at a level that is appropriate for them. Hands-on activities and field trips are bringing science, social studies, and global studies to life in all classes.

We invite you to see what's happening for yourself! Japhet 101 tours are scheduled throughout the year; visit [www.japhetschool.org/VisitJaphetSchool.shtml](http://www.japhetschool.org/VisitJaphetSchool.shtml) for a date that meets your schedule. You are also invited to join us on **Thursday, November 5, from 12:00 - 1:00 PM** for Japhet's **18 Reasons for Hope Fundraising Luncheon** at the Club Venetian, and to visit the school on **Friday, November 13, from 10 AM - 12 PM** for Japhet's **Social Studies Fair**.

We're excited to announce that we now have a Facebook identity! Become a Japhet School "Fan" and receive a quick posting each day about good news happening at Japhet.

If you'd like to visit, or introduce a friend to Japhet, just give us a call or email me at [cathy.mohan@japhetschool.org](mailto:cathy.mohan@japhetschool.org).

**Cathy Mohan**  
Head of School

*"Good character consists of knowing the good, desiring the good, and doing the good – habits of the mind, habits of the heart, and habits of action. All three are necessary for leading a moral life; all three make up moral maturity. When we think about the kind of character we want for our children, it's clear that we want them to be able to judge what is right, care deeply about what is right, and then do what they believe to be right – even in the face of pressure from without and temptation from within." ~ Thomas Likona*

## INSPO

For the last 36 years, one of our most cherished Japhet traditions has been our weekly Chapel, a time when the school community and guests hear a unique presentation about that month's character quality. Teachers, staff, eighth-graders, and visitors rotate as keynote speakers. Children also are featured Students of the Week, for which they prepare a biographical speech and visual aid about a person of character and present to the entire school.

This year we changed the name from Chapel – which has a religious connotation – to **INSPO**, which stands for **In**spiring **S**peakers, **P**articipants, and **O**bservers. "INSPO" has been a buzzword used informally by Japhet students and teachers for some time, usually referring to the daily inspirational message that is shared over the intercom by a student or staff member every morning.

INSPO assemblies are open events. Visit Japhet **any Monday at 8:45 AM**, and you'll see students and staff dressed in our Japhet Blues and gathered in the Centrum to await the week's message about character!



*Lisa Johnson, our bookkeeper, and her children are ready for INSPO in their Japhet Blues.*

## Social Studies Fair Coming Up!

Visit Japhet School on **November 13**, and you'll meet children enthralled with fall harvest, tour guides through Michigan, a whole town of community workers, a "Picturing America" visual tour, explorers of the New World, and a knowledgeable panel of archaeologists. All this in one day? It must be time for Social Studies Fair!

**Preschool and Kindergarten** host open classrooms for Social Studies Fair, where guests can explore with our youngest students some hands-on activities that reflect current themes. Preschoolers are exploring harvest, and Kindergarteners plan to share cookies and their knowledge about Michigan symbols.

**Primary Class** spent the month of October going on a variety of field trips that introduced them to community workers at a bakery, post office, city hall, courthouse, and more. Students will each represent a different worker and share with visitors how they serve their community.

**Middle Class** will visually explore the United States using the Picturing America program, which was created by the National Endowment for the Humanities in Partnership with the American Library Association. Japhet School received this program with a grant, and students will present what they learned through themes such as leadership, freedom and equality, courage, and more.

**Intermediate** students have studied and will represent in person our earliest explorers, whose voyages led others to the New World. The explorers will share their "Ship's Log" with stories about why they sailed, where they sailed, what they found, and how they treated each other and the people that they met.

**Upper Class** students are currently studying ancient human life and the field of archaeology. Come and hear from our knowledgeable panel of experts who will represent, in character, the viewpoints and findings of the scientists who helped us clear up some of the mysteries of man's earliest beginnings.

Social Studies Fair opens at **10 AM on Friday, November 13**, and runs until 12 PM. In addition to academic presentations, visitors will enjoy viewing artwork and tasting foods that integrate with students' studies. A specific schedule of each class's presentation times will be available on Social Studies Fair Day.

## What You Would Learn if You Went to LOC

In September, our fifth- through eighth-grade students make their annual sojourn to Michigan's Leelanau Outdoor Center, where they engage in physical and intellectual challenges. This three-day trip sets the stage for communication and teamwork all year in Middle School. Included in this trip is a traditional Night Hike, during which a camp counselor imparts life lessons.

**The Lesson of the False Summit** – often we think we have reached the top, completed our task, or achieved our goal only to learn that there is still more to do if we want to do our best. You have to reach deep inside and find the courage and determination to get to that final summit and truly reach your goal.



*This Upper Class student joyfully and courageously tackled a treetop ropes course at LOC.*

**The Lesson of Polaris** – Polaris, the North Star, has been the star by which we have navigated for thousands of years. Polaris is not the brightest star in the sky, but unlike those that out-shine it, Polaris stays constant in its position – never changing, always steady. From sailors on the high seas to slaves on the Underground Railroad, mankind has been guided by Polaris. You don't have to be the brightest star in the sky, on the stage, in your class, or in a social setting to be a leader. You need – like Polaris – to be consistent.

## Fore! the Kids

In a speech connecting the sport of golf to Japhet's 18 character qualities, Head of School Cathy Mohan asked 74 golfers, "Are you hitting the greens ready to go? Are you meeting the water hazards and sand traps with inventive thought?" At Japhet School, she said, "students express initiative by asking questions and thinking of original solutions to problems that will help others."

The annual Fore! the Kids Golf Outing was a great success. After a full night of rain, morning air was cool, but our golfers stayed dry. Japhet School extends its gratitude toward the planning team and also to the Grandparents of Japhet School, hole sponsors, and all participants for a great day at Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak.

The event raised more than \$7,000 for Japhet School, but the real gain was making new friends who left with a great first impression of the school and our mission.

*Janice and Jeremy Goldstein (at right), Japhet parents and our hosts at Red Run, former parent Gretchen Greenwood, and Mike Genslak pause on the green for a quick photo op.*

**The Lesson of Regulus** – as a great Roman general in the 1st Punic War, Regulus was captured by the Carthaginians in 255 B.C. and sent to solicit peace from his Roman government by telling them they were about to be defeated. This would have spared his life. Instead he advised the senate to press on and not surrender. Then, true to his word, he returned to his captors where he was sentenced to death, his integrity and courage intact. Regulus is the heart of the constellation Leo. LOC helps us to understand the importance of integrity and staying true to our convictions.

We sincerely thank all golfers, supporting staff, hole sponsors, and companies and individuals who contributed to the auction. **We also acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude this year's event sponsor: PVC Chemicals in Detroit.**



# New Faces in New Places

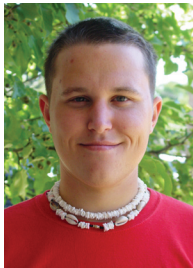
We welcome two new employees to Japhet School! Megan Partridge, a Japhet parent and former Montessori teacher, is now teaching our Kindergarten students. J.J. Paige is our new daytime custodian. In addition, several employees have new responsibilities this year.



**Megan Partridge** has been a Japhet parent since her son, Grant, began in Japhet's Preschool. "As a parent, I have always loved Japhet's philosophy of educating the whole child," she says. "And having a

small class size allows for more individualized attention." Megan has taught lower-elementary Montessori students for the last six years, and in traditional classrooms before that. "It has been especially exciting to see how involved the students are in INSPRO discussions, and to gain a deeper understanding of how our character qualities are incorporated into everyday learning."

**J.J. Paige** is the new and friendly face students and parents see around dismissal time, when he begins his workday at Japhet. Our new daytime custodian, J.J. cleans our school and also helps set up for



events. J.J. is well equipped for the job, having worked several years as a cleaning technician for Cemcare Inc. in Troy, a fire- and smoke-damage restoration services company. "Japhet is a great environment to work in," says J.J., "everybody is so nice."

**Betsy Stecker** made a move from teaching Language Arts in Intermediate and Upper classes – a position she held for 11 years – to full-time administrative work as our Communications Director. Before Japhet, Betsy was a writer and editor for 15 years. "This position enables me to do what I love in a way that serves the entire school," says Betsy. In her new position, Betsy is responsible for producing communications, marketing, maintaining the web site, grantwriting, assisting in the front office, and

other duties. Her daughter Amelia graduated Japhet in 2009, and son David is in Upper Class.

**Brenda Gaunt**, who has served as our Library and Technology teacher, moved into the Intermediate Class as the homeroom teacher, teaching Math, Reader's and Writer's Workshop, and Science to fifth- through eighth-grade students. Brenda taught in a charter elementary school before coming to Japhet. "Being with the kids is what I enjoy most," says Brenda. "Being in a homeroom is an opportunity to build great relationships with students and learn with them besides!" Japhet's Middle School teachers work as a team – Brenda's partner, Upper Class teacher Susan Butler, also teaches Math and Reader's and Writer's Workshop, as well as Global Studies to the two classes.

**Jacque Litton** continues to be our After-School Care Director, a position she has held for seven years, and this year she has moved into the front office in the mornings in a supportive role. Known as "Miss J" by the students, Jacque enjoys interacting with children who visit her in the morning. Well known by the staff for her expression of initiative and helpfulness, Jacque finds it a joy to do a variety of duties. "It's especially nice to know and be of help to our families," she says.

**Pam Mazurkiewicz** is putting her passion for reading to work as our Reading Specialist, Librarian, and Learning Support teacher. Japhet offers small-group and individualized instruction, and Pam teaches these lessons to Primary, Middle, Intermediate, and Upper Class students throughout the day. In addition, Pam holds Library classes for all Japhet students. Pam's favorite inspirational quote is well known by her students: "Reading is magic!" Pam joined the Japhet family when her children were in Middle and Intermediate Class. Now adults, Kelly and Scott both graduated from Japhet and now attend Michigan State University.

**Ebony Stokes**, our multi-lingual Spanish teacher, had a wonderful first year at Japhet and is now teaching two more classes: Integrated Technology and Music. Integrated Technology classes apply our new Strategic Plan objective, which is to integrate technology across all classes to maximize student proficiency. Ebony

has already set up Wikis, which are password-protected web pages that students can create, edit and share! In music class, Ebony is focusing on music appreciation, Orff-style instruction, and supporting our all-school December and May musical productions.

Our former daytime custodian, **Art Krolikowski** – lovingly known as "Grandpa Art" by students – has decided to retire after almost 20 years of service to Japhet, before which he worked as a Borden's



milkman and delivery person. We know we will continue to see Art and his wife Dawn at special events, as they both love Japhet for all it has given their family. Their daughter is Primary Class teacher Janet Andersen, and four of their grandchildren attended Japhet School.

## 18 Reasons for Hope

In a single hour, Japhet can give you hope ... 18 Reasons for Hope, which represent our 18 character qualities that students learn and practice while attending Japhet School. Come join us for an hour, and be inspired!

**18 Reasons for Hope Luncheon**  
**Thursday, November 5**  
**12:00-1:00 PM**  
**Club Venetian,**  
**Madison Heights, Michigan**

This is Japhet's annual fundraising luncheon and is a part of our development plan. All are invited to attend and celebrate why Japhet is so important to us. Become a Japhet Ambassador and help bring guests to the event. You could bring a guest to tour the school and introduce them to what makes Japhet so special. Or, simply attend; the luncheon is free.

To learn more about supporting this important day or to reserve your seat, please contact Cathy Mohan or Susan Butler at 248.585.9150.



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## Alumni News

### Leanne Raymond J'06

Leanne is well into her senior year at University Liggett Upper School in Grosse Pointe. She plays soccer for Liggett in spring and will play indoors this winter for a league. Leanne continues to pursue an artistic career and is currently taking an AP Arts Studio class and working in metal and jewelry. She is also doing the college visit circuit with stops at the University of Toledo, Bowling Green State university, University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, Wayne State and the University of Michigan. Leanne says that that Japhet's character qualities have stayed with her and provide a personal guidance system.

### Clint White J'07

Clint is a junior in a new and innovative program called Oakland Early College. Clint transferred this year from Royal Oak High School to this five-year high school program at Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge that enables students to complete their high school diploma and an Associate's degree at the same time. Clint really likes the smaller classes and courses that allow him to study subjects more in line with his career and long-term interests. Being on a college campus gives students more independence, and requires them to make things happen on their own. Clint thinks that Japhet's language arts program and attention to writing skills and process really give him an advantage in his course work. Clint joins Austin Nothdurft J '07, who is in his second year in the same program.

### Joseph Pospisil J'03

Joseph shares that he has transferred to Oakland University this fall as a junior and is majoring in Computer Science. His two years at Oakland Community College were well spent in finding the best fit for a career in this job market. Joseph credits Japhet's teachers and classes especially in language arts and public speaking for contributing to his success in

project management and leadership in his college courses. Many of his non-campus hours are spent at Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant in Troy across from Somerset Mall where he has worked since this summer. He enjoys seeing friends and classmates who stop in for a meal.

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

## Parent Support Group Programs

It's easy to participate in these fundraisers sponsored by the PSG, wherever you live! You can put your everyday shopping dollars to use for Japhet School with a few easy steps.

- **Campbell's Soup / General Mills Box Tops** – mail your Campbell's UPC codes (not the entire label) and General Mills "Box Tops for Education" to Japhet School, or place them in the front lobby bins.
- **Hollywood grocery store receipts** – we receive dividends from Hollywood Market just for showing our receipts. Michigan Hollywood stores are in Bloomfield, Madison Heights, Troy, Royal Oak, Rochester Hills, Shelby Township, and Lake Orion. Mail or bring your receipts to Japhet School.
- **Kroger grocery store** – go to the customer service desk with your Kroger Cares card and ask to have it linked to Japhet School.
- **ETCEP** – Japhet School will recycle and receive money for your used ink and toner cartridges and cell phones.