



JAPHET SCHOOL

Award-winning National School of Character

FALL 2012

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

Early Days in Early Childhood

“Miss Jackie, do you go to work?” ~ Japhet Preschooler

This 3-year-old's inquiry puts Japhet's Early Childhood program into perspective. Our Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms, taught by Jackie White and Megan Partridge, are fun, nurturing, and exciting places to be.

Character education is at the heart of Early Childhood education. Children are learning to be peacemakers, express self-control, and show reliability while they gain independence.

Developing the whole child – physically, socially, and academically – is part of Japhet's philosophy and is paramount in Japhet's Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms. Japhet's youngest students discover that learning is fun and is something that makes them feel proud.



Children enjoy daily play outside.



A Kindergartner practices his pencil grip.



Individual expression with art fosters creativity.

On the Calendar:

ISACS Team Visit
November 11-14

Gratitude Service
November 21

December Concert
December 13 & 14

Open House
January 27



Kindergarten teacher Megan Partridge works one-on-one with a student.



Our middle-schoolers embrace responsibility with their young "Pumpkin Patch buddies," a special Japhet tradition.

Harmony, Purpose, Mission

Harmony is defined as being consistent or in agreement. At Japhet we strive always to be in agreement with our mission in what we think, what we say, and what we do.

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

At the beginning of every school year each faculty and staff member commits to teaching and working in harmony with our mission and philosophy which define our unique approach to helping children grow. We educate the whole child, integrating both character and academics.

During our 2011 school survey nearly 100% of our parents, faculty and staff, trustees, and alumni parents agreed that we are achieving our mission.

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

~ Mahatma Gandhi



Cathy Mohan

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This year is an accreditation year for Japhet. In November we are hosting a Visiting Team from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) for three days. They have read our self-study and are visiting classrooms and meeting with parents, students, trustees, faculty and staff to confirm what we already know: that we are living our mission!

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

A 2013 Japhet School art calendar is coming soon! Be on the lookout for a new calendar on sale in the lobby. All sales support our art program and have provided art history DVDs and supplemental materials such as clay for sculpture units.

If you live afar, we're happy to mail you a calendar – just call the school.

**S U P P O R T
J A P H E T
A R T I S T S**

Parents & Grandparents Show Support

The Parent Support Group has begun a new year! This supportive parent organization raises funds for the school, volunteers at events and in classes, and brings guests and special assemblies to Japhet. Fundraisers: Great American Opportunities catalog, Kroger Cares Card, Hollywood Market Apples for Students, Funfunds from Gordon Foods, My Coke Rewards, Campbell's Soup Labels and Box Tops, ETCEP Cartridge Program, and the Target Red Card.

Last year, PSG funds helped purchase new math textbooks with integrated technology features. The PSG also sponsored a BMX bike demonstration.

The Grandparents of Japhet School is a very special organization that also supports the school through fundraising and volunteerism. Last year, the GJS sponsored two \$500 scholarships and helped fill classroom wish lists. New members are always welcome.

To learn more about how you can support the PSG or GJS, visit www.japhetschool.org and click "Support Us."



A Primary Class student sorts and classifies seeds (beans).

Illumination with Integration

When teachers coordinate their lessons to teach a subject across classes, students benefit.

A freshly washed bunch of celery on the cutting board is much more than an ingredient in an upcoming Life Skills class with Robin Pospisil. To Japhet's first- and second-graders, the food represents a recurring theme that they are learning about in several classes: plants. "What part of this plant will go in our soup today? The stalk, the leaves, or the root?"

Moving along to Art class, Marti Minard is using plants as a motif for Primary Class art projects, focusing on the beautiful contours of plants or using plants for leaf rubbings. In Library class, Pam Mazurkiewicz is helping students practice their location skills by asking them to find plant-related nonfiction and reading selections. And in Technology class, Cristin Graham is introducing Primary Class students to electronic journals, which include plant illustrations and research.

All of this integration stems from homeroom, where Primary Class science teacher Lauren Jones is leading an in-depth, two-part unit about plants.

The benefits of integration – also called cross-curricular learning – include:

- Linking subjects helps children make sense of what they are learning when they apply their knowledge to a new setting and experience.
- Integration helps learners see the relevance of the skills and knowledge they are acquiring.
- Learners recognize how they are learning, as they practice problem solving, reasoning, and creative thinking skills in different environments.
- Cross-curricular learning encourages creativity.
- Students learn to think outside the box when applying newly acquired skills to different environments.

"Subject integration happens by design, not accidentally,"

says Cathy Mohan, Head of School.

"Collaboration enriches student learning."

Fore! the Kids

Our annual Fore! the Kids Golf Outing in June was a great success at its new venue: Western Golf and Country Club in Redford, Michigan. We had a full event! Special thanks to our sponsors – PVS Chemicals, Denso, Sunsteel Treating and Straightline – as well as to all those who donated to the auction and sponsored holes.

"I host friends at the golf outing as a way to say 'thank you' to those who have given my wife and I a special kindness," says a Japhet supporter. "It's a really nice event, and I'm proud to invite others to join me. I make sure that my guests meet Japhet staff and the students who are present. It cultivates a real connection, and serves as an important reminder of why we are all here today."

Stay tuned for the 2013 Fore! the Kids golf outing date and venue.



Upper Class student George Blake joined his grandfather Doug Gettel in a great game of golf for Japhet School.

Caris Bing J'10

Caris reports that she is thoroughly enjoying her junior year at Marian High School. She is involved in the Marian-Rice Players theatre group and looks forward to their upcoming productions this year. She is also an active member of the Spanish Honors Society and is taking several AP classes this year. Caris became interested in track and field last year and plans to continue in that sport in spring.

Caris was just accepted into the National Honors Society and credits her community service work at Japhet as a solid foundation. She says, "Japhet's community service focus exposed me to service at a young age. It has made getting my my community service hours for graduation and NHS easy and fun! The hours were not simply a graduation requirement, but also a great way to get involved."

Caris also feels that her Japhet years affected her academic and social readiness significantly. As others before her, she sees the importance of connecting with her project partners and mentors. "One of the things that Japhet prepared me most for is communicating with my teachers. I'm not afraid of asking my teachers questions and forming relationships with them. I find that many of my friends and classmates are not as comfortable doing this. I'm also able to use good judgment in the friendships that I form and not succumb to peer-pressure."

Amelia Stecker J'09

Amelia shares Caris's view that her relationships with teachers had a significant influence in developing her as a student, and she spoke to this point at the recent 18 Reasons for Hope luncheon. She has welcomed the challenges of her senior year at Royal Oak High School, balancing AP classes, taking the editor-in-chief position for the school's creative writing magazine, and working in the after-school program at Japhet. This summer she enjoyed visiting several Michigan colleges and is currently in the all-important application stage. Amelia also had the opportunity to travel to Spain with her Spanish class last summer with stops in Seville, Malaga, and Toledo among the cities on her itinerary.



Amelia Stecker, J'09, at Alhambra Gardens in Granada, Spain.

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

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