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## Alumni News

It's been an exciting spring for the Alumni Relations Committee! On June 6, our eighth-graders became full-fledged Alumni upon graduation, and we welcome them with open arms! That same evening, the Alumni Relations Committee held an Alumni reunion at the home of Janis and Bill Kenny. Alumni and their families enjoyed a delicious picnic, swimming, reminiscing over old pictures, and lots and lots of fun! Many thanks to those who helped organize this event, especially our gracious hosts, the Kennys. The evening was so successful that we are looking toward another event for next year, possibly over the Thanksgiving or Christmas holiday or perhaps the end of the school year again. Please share your ideas with us of the best time to reunite!

Many Japhet alum keep in touch on Facebook. It's a great way to see what your Japhet friends are up to and to keep informed about Japhet activities. Contact Scott Knaffla at [sknaffla@umich.edu](mailto:sknaffla@umich.edu) for more information on how to get connected with Facebook.

In the early fall, the Alumni Relations Committee will be sending out a survey to help update our records, capture your great Japhet memories, and get your ideas on our growing Alumni Organization. The survey also will be available on-line at [www.japhet.org](http://www.japhet.org). We want to hear from you, and any feedback you can give us is so appreciated. Until then, have a wonderful summer and keep in touch!

Each newsletter now features an update on some of our alumni (right). Do you have alumni news to share? Please send news and photos to Robin Pospisil, Director of Admissions at [robinpospisil@japhet.org](mailto:robinpospisil@japhet.org).

### Kiersten Andersen J'05

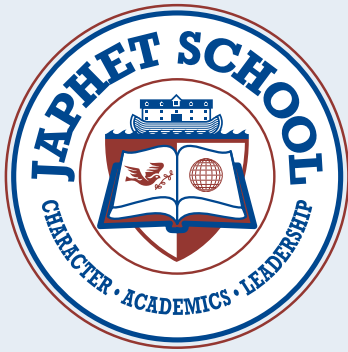
Kiersten will be entering her senior year at Stevenson High School in Sterling Heights. She continues to play volleyball on a varsity level with her team coming in second in the conference this year. Kiersten made the All-County, All-Academic and All-Conference teams and was voted most improved player this year. She was chosen to captain her team next fall. Kiersten enjoys giving back to her community. She helped with both Guest Day and the Gala this year at Japhet. Kiersten will be a counselor-in-training at Camp Kohana this summer and is running a community volleyball camp at her high school. She was also selected to attend a Women in Sports Leadership conference in Lansing this winter.

### Grant Demeter J'07

Grant just completed his freshman year at University of Detroit Jesuit High School. He feels that his Japhet education particularly prepared him in two areas. First, the character education has given him a maturity level that allowed him to be successful this year. Secondly, Japhet's writing curriculum and public speaking opportunities have been noted in his classes and made the transition to high school much easier, helping him to make the honor roll. Grant auditioned for and participated in the presentation of *Grease* and *Rebel Without a Cause* this year. He also ran track and is planning to try out for cross-country in fall. Grant will be traveling to Canada and New England this summer.

### Austin Nothdurft J'07

Austin will be attending a pilot program this fall called Oakland Early College at OCC Orchard Ridge as a sophomore this year. It is a rigorous program that allows Austin to receive his high school diploma as well as his Associates Degree at the same time. Austin continues to teach chess and play on a competitive level. He currently runs two after-school chess clubs for younger students, one located at Japhet. It is a very popular program with as many as 24 third- through eighth-graders playing some Fridays. Austin says that one of the reasons he enjoys teaching chess at Japhet is that it gives him the opportunity to remind students how lucky they are to attend this school.



# Japhet School

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

## Summer 2008

### The Mission of Japhet School



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

## Message from the Head of School



*Cathy Mohan*

Happy summer! It is hard to believe that the 2007-2008 school year has come to a close. It was a year full of joy, learning, and activity. As you turn the page, you'll have the opportunity to read comments shared about each graduate during our graduation ceremony, find out more about our summer classes, and catch up with alumni who attended this year's reunion.

This past spring, the Strategic Plan coordinators and workshop participants gathered to review the plan and share accomplishments from the first year of implementation. I am proud to report that progress is evident for each strategy.

Interest in Japhet is growing through initiatives in Marketing and advertised Merit Scholarships. Additional print and radio ads have helped bring visitors to the school. A new full-color booklet highlighting *10 Reasons Why Parents and Students Love Japhet School* has been completed, a new brochure is being created, and updates to our web site are on the way. Our next **Open House** is **Sunday, August 10, from 1:00 - 3:00 PM**. Individual tours are available throughout the summer. If you'd like to visit or introduce a friend to Japhet, just give us a call.

**Cathy Mohan**  
Head of School

## Summer Classes in Full Swing

On Graduation Day, Japhet students said good-bye to their teachers and began enjoying their summers. Just a week later, however, our doors re-opened, and we welcomed a host of summer day-campers! Japhet students and guests are welcome to enroll in summer classes.

The Early Childhood Summer Program for young children runs June 16 through August 15. It is a thematic, play-based camp for children ages 3 through 7.

In addition to the ongoing Early Childhood camp, Japhet offers week-long day camps for elementary and middle-school students. Each class meets for a half-day, either in the morning or afternoon. Classes that already took place include Pre-Algebra Exploration, Games O'Rama, Circus Camp, Tennis Camp, Fun with Math, Sign Language, La Cocina Latina and many more.

Here's a peek at upcoming classes. Descriptions of these classes are on our web site: [www.japhet.org](http://www.japhet.org). These classes welcome joiners...just call Japhet to enroll!

**Pasta Perfection, July 28-August 1**  
**Advanced Magic Camp, July 28-August 1**  
**Pre-Algebra Exploration, August 4-8**

## Upcoming Events:

- August 10: Open House
- September 3: First Day of School
- September 15: Fore! the Kids Golf Outing
- October 2: Japhet's Fifth Annual Character Conference
- November 6: 18 Reasons for Hope Luncheon

## Alumni News



*Andrew Pospisil, Jake Mohan, and Blake Knaffla – like all alumni pictured above right – had a great time catching up with old friends! See page 4 for full story.*

# Hats Off to Our 2008 Graduates

On June 6, the Japhet School community sent eight special people off to their next educational adventure during our Graduation service.

Susan Ellithorpe, a former Japhet Kindergarten teacher of 25 years, was our keynote presenter. She connected the lessons she used to teach in Kindergarten to life lessons today. For example, Susan compelled the graduates to remember symbiosis – the act in which two dissimilar ocean creatures take care of each other's needs – and to take the time to care for other human beings in need as they cross the students' paths in life. Susan currently resides in Virginia with her family and teaches at Potomac School just outside of Washington, D.C.

Jake Mohan, Japhet Class of 2003, was our alumni speaker. The central element of Jake's presentation was, "I hope you make a lot of mistakes. Mistakes," he said, "are key to growth, and ultimately the only mistakes we make are the ones that we don't learn from." Jake currently attends Michigan Technological University in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

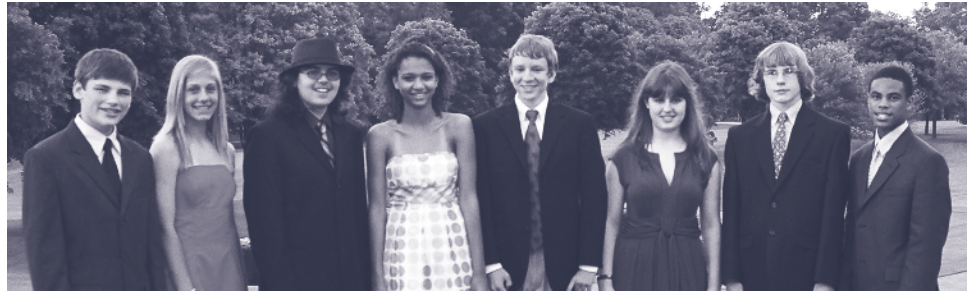
The entire Japhet community gives a heartfelt congratulations to the Japhet Class of 2008!

## Jenna Andersen

Jenna started attending school as an infant of 8 weeks in Japhet's Daycare. Jenna is the daughter of Mrs. Andersen, who has worked at Japhet since well before Jenna's birth, so Japhet has been Jenna's home away from home for as long as she can remember. Jenna is athletic, intelligent, industrious, caring, down to earth, and a positive leader. Her academics are done well and ahead of schedule. Her sport of choice is soccer; however, she excels in all athletic activities. Jenna is on a premier travel soccer team. Jenna's teachers describe her as a girl who strives to be fair and takes each challenge in stride, and, if needed, expresses a need for change with conviction. Jenna is a true role model for other girls – she is both feminine and strong, she is frank and demure – she is, in a word, authentic. Jenna will be heading to Heritage Junior High for 9th grade, and then to Stevenson High School.

## Denzell Blockett

Integrity is the word that comes to teachers' minds when asked to reflect upon Denzell. Attending Japhet for seventh and eighth grades, Denzell has had a peaceful presence in the Upper Class, carrying himself with a sense of quiet and humble dignity. As we came to know him, slowly his core – strong and solid – was revealed. His classmates respect his high standards of respect for self and loyalty, but also have found Denzell's silly side and sly sense of humor. Denzell's hobbies include playing football, basketball, and the game Rock Band. His favorite character qualities are courage, respect for



*Left to right: Jeremie, Jenna, Andrew, Brittany, Alex, Abby, Conrad, and Denzell.*

others, and initiative. Denzell has a strong sense of family and enjoys hearing stories and learning about his family history. Denzell's family describes his personality as laid back and playful; in fact, he's quite the prankster at home. Denzell's plans for high school are still developing, but wherever his next educational step takes him, he will be a positive leader.

## Alexander Drum

Alex attended Japhet from preschool through first grade. He returned for the second half of 4th grade after visiting the Middle Class, and after telling his mom he wanted to stay, he was enrolled the following Monday! Alex's roles in Spring Sharing are quite memorable. His knack for delivering lines with emotion landed him the lead of Sam Johnson in fourth grade and other memorable characters including Horton the Elephant and Professor Harold Hill. Alex's written work demonstrates the thinker within. His character essays stand out because Alex often has a unique take on the world's problems and how they can be solved. In the words of one teacher, he thinks "outside the box – clever, inventive, and capable. If you're stuck on a deserted island, Alex is the one to call." Alex enjoys playing tennis, guitar, and the game Guitar Hero. He will be attending Shrine High School next year.

## Andrew Galat

Andrew joined Japhet as a sixth-grade student. Andrew has a quiet voice, but his leadership abilities are not to be underestimated. Andrew leads best by his consistent and reliable example, and if he takes issue with a matter, he will make it clear. His interest in history and especially the study of warfare are woven throughout his written work. Andrew's favorite character quality is courage, and courage is a quality he expresses on a regular basis. Andrew's classmates admire his expression of justice, and state that he treats everyone fairly. Andrew is thoughtful, insightful, and respectful. Andrew enjoys playing computer games, collecting toy soldiers, learning about history, and building with Legos. Andrew's parents say that he has benefited immensely from participating in Life Skills, as it expanded his views of food and gave him the joy of serving others. Andrew plans to be home-schooled next year.

## Conrad Holtsclaw

Conrad is a solid academic student and advanced mathematician. Upon entering Japhet as a seventh-grade student, he was ready for high school geometry. As an eighth-grade student, he completed an eleventh-grade Algebra II curriculum with an A average. Conrad's written work exemplifies brevity, but it is rich with wit, an exact use of vocabulary, and his signature dry sense of humor. He also is an astute listener, and notices even the slightest discrepancies or inconsistencies, making him a true asset in a discussion that could become unclear for others. He's discussed contemporary world issues with his gift of getting to the crux of the matter. Conrad's hobbies include cross-country running, playing the game Guitar Hero, and playing the electric guitar. His favorite character quality is respect for self. Conrad will be attending Rochester Adams High School next year.

## Jeremie Langlois

Jeremie, who enrolled at Japhet in sixth grade, has earned respect for his analytical mind, knowledge of current events, a passion for history, and his strong opinion, which he is proud to voice. Jeremie's true talent lies in words, says one teacher: "Words expertly clarifying, words deftly defining, words magnificently maneuvering." Jeremie is a natural leader among peers and younger children. He speaks easily with improvisation, and is ready to take a stand against points with which he disagrees. Jeremie has served on Japhet's Student Council each year he has been here. His favorite character quality is justice. With these talents, Jeremie is aptly suited to lead those in his generation looking for change, so it seems fitting that Jeremie is interested in pursuing a career as a lawyer. Jeremie enjoys baseball, building with Legos, collecting army surplus items, and playing the game Runescape. Jeremie will attend University of Detroit Jesuit High School in the fall.

## Brittany Newton

Brittany has attended Japhet for only one year. Yet, her contributions are memorable. You may remember her as Annie or the Gardener in this year's Spring Sharing production "The Youthful Heart." She not only brought us her beautiful voice, but also a joyous presence that gives her a truly magnetic personality. She has inspired the Upper Class girls to randomly break into song, and she organized a group song for the November Gratitude

Service. She is also a talented creative writer and a strong mathematician. Her teachers describe her as courteous, caring, energetic, and full of joy. In her free time, Brittany enjoys singing, dancing, and running track. It is not surprising to learn that her career goal is to be a singer and teacher. She is well on her way, because this summer she is performing in a large-scale production of *Les Miserables*. Brittany plans to attend Almont High School in the fall.

### Abigail Strub

Abby began her journey at Japhet as a Preschool student and has grown up at Japhet, and now she is already looking at colleges! She is an industrious girl who has perpetual goal to to increase her knowledge base. She is teaching herself Japanese and German words and phrases. Abby has, since her early years, possessed a particular talent for writing that, in the last two years, has well exceeded Middle School expectations and often has her teachers reaching for a dictionary. Her creative writing with real-to-life characters and believable dialogue could very well hit the bookstores one day. Or perhaps she will develop a set of innovative textbooks, or answer an age-old question in a new, inventive way. Nonetheless, it is with industry and passion that Abby will lead the way. Abby enjoys writing, reading, cooking, playing the piano, hiking, singing, and acting. Her favorite character quality is joy, and she states that she finds it the most natural to express. Abby will be attending International Academy for high school.

*Having completed all academic requirements of the Japhet School, the faculty recommended that the above students be presented with their diplomas, signifying graduation. Congratulations to our 2008 graduates!*

## FORE! The Kids

Mark your calendars for September 15, 2008, when Japhet School returns to the links for another fabulous golf outing. We are playing at Lyons Oak in Wixom, Michigan – a course designed by Arthur Hill and a beautiful venue. We are looking to expand our outing this year from 32 golfers to about 80 golfers, so get in early by signing up your foursome today. We will have contests, prizes, and a silent auction. There are plenty of sponsorship opportunities available as well. For further information contact Cathy Mohan at 248-585-9150 or Ted Balowski at 248-376-9040. We look forward to seeing you on the links at one of Japhet's most exciting events!



## Scholarship News

### Financial Incentive Brings New Faces to Japhet and Rewards Hard Work

Japhet's Board of Trustees, Head of School, and Admissions Committee are pleased to announce four new scholarships, made possible by individual donors in honor of each scholarship's named designee. The goal of implementing these new scholarships – all merit-based – are to attract responsible students to Japhet School and to reward current students for their exemplary initiative and industry.

**Robert Andreasen Merit Scholarship** – specifically designed to award a current Japhet student entering fifth through eighth grade, this scholarship pays \$1,000 toward the chosen student's tuition. Applicants must provide two letters of recommendation, pay their deposit, and write an essay while at Japhet. For the first year, three Japhet students competed for this scholarship, whose essays and letters of recommendation were evaluated sans personal identification. The winner for 2008-2009: **Emily Strub**, entering seventh grade.

**Marjorie Hale Merit Scholarship, Minnie Buelow Merit Scholarship, and Henry Buelow Merit Scholarship** – these three scholarships, each worth \$2,500, are designed to attract new students entering third through eighth grade who are serious about their studies and would like an opportunity to pursue them at Japhet. Applicants must provide one letter of recommendation and sit for academic testing. The Marjorie Hale Merit Scholarship has been awarded to **Megan Stroup**, entering sixth grade.

The Minnie and Henry Buelow Merit Scholarships are still available and interested applicants are urged to contact Japhet right away.

## Board of Trustees, 2008-2009

Immediately following graduation on June 6, Japhet's new Board of Trustees sat down to work on the issues presented for the 2008-2009 school year, including the confirmation of the Board's membership.

Trustee Betty Gray served one year on the Board, and she has chosen to resign. We are most grateful for her service to Japhet School. Two new members were elected to the board: Ann Nicholson and Penny Strelow.

**Ann Nicholson** has been active in community affairs for 35 years, with a special interest in education. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Stanford University. Current activities include: trustee and former chair of the Board of Trustees of Oakland University, former member of OU's Finance and Investment Committee, and currently on the Academic Affairs Committee; treasurer and member of Investment Committee for The Young Woman's Home Association, a private charitable foundation; immediate past treasurer of the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe; chair, Board of Visitors, Merrill Palmer/Skillman Institute at Wayne State University; and a member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Event Coordinating Committee.

**Penny Strelow** also brings experience from a variety of activities to the board, including: representative of the Christian Science Publishing Society for The Writings of Mary Baker Eddy, First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston; real estate agent with Coldwell Banker, San Francisco; member of President's Council Grubb & Ellis; stock broker, Ferris and Co. in Washington, D.C., and A.G. Edwards in Wilton, Conn. Penny also is active in her church, having served as First Reader, member and president of the Board of Directors, Sunday School superintendent, Sunday School teacher, and lecture chair.

Returning Japhet School board members include **Ted Balowski, Judy Gettel, Susan Golbiw, Terry Helgesen, Carole Hilzinger, David Holt, Julie Knaffla, Jack McNaughton, Barb Quincey, Alistair Savides, Jay Schmitt, Patricia Tibbetts, and Nancy Thayer.**

Officers for the 2008-2009 school year are:  
**Pat Tibbetts, President**  
**Jack McNaughton, Vice-President**  
**Barb Quincey, Secretary**  
**Jay Schmitt, Treasurer**

The Japhet School community extends its gratitude to current and former Board of Trustees who generously share their time, talents, and resources to propel Japhet into a positive future.