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Alumni News

Save the date! Join us for a Japhet Alumni Reunion on June 6, 2008. Come and reminisce with old friends, and make new ones as we celebrate our Japhet years together. Start the day by greeting our 2008 graduating class followed by our graduation ceremony at 11:00 AM and reception. Then, in the evening, enjoy dinner at a private home, a perfect setting for sharing your Japhet stories with fellow Alum.

You might see these graduates at the Alumni Reunion...

Tim Knaffla, J'98, is completing his Master's Degree at Wayne State University and managing stores for ACE Hardware. He has also been studying this winter for the LSAT exam, which he will take in June. Tim's first choices for law school include the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan.

Hania Bigoszewska, J'06, is a sophomore at the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills. Although the time commitment to homework has been enormous, Hania continues to play travel soccer and to practice horseback riding skills. Hania is looking forward to traveling to Spain this summer with her Spanish Class.

Case Ives, J'03, is repeating his senior year of high school...in a different country and language. Case is spending the year in a town just outside of Helsinki, Finland, as a Rotary International Exchange student. His current host "dad" is the mayor of the town. He is looking forward to adding a number of stamps to his passport with upcoming European and Asian travel, including a trip to Thailand during the Christmas holidays.

Do you have alumni news to share? Please send news and photos to Robin Pospisil, Director of Admissions, at robinpospisil@japhet.org.

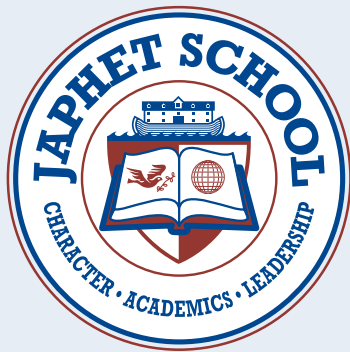
A Win-Win Opportunity

You have the opportunity to benefit Japhet and your financial position just by letting families know what a great school Japhet is. Our Family Referral Program rewards any adult who is responsible for encouraging new families to enroll their children at Japhet. It is as simple as talking about Japhet, or inviting potential students and their families to Japhet events. Then, turn in a referral card available from the Admissions Director, Robin Pospisil, and payment will be issued to you once the newly enrolled family fulfills its initial financial commitments. Each new family who enrolls generates a minimum referral reward of \$500, and there is no limit to the number of families you can refer. So, do you know a family who would benefit by being at Japhet? Keep Japhet in mind when you are out and about, and then watch us grow.

FORE! the Kids

We know it's cold outside...it could even be snowing as you read this newsletter...but if you'd rather be wearing your golf gloves than mittens, get ready for Japhet's **FORE! The Kids** golf outing that supports our scholarship program. We will be playing on a Monday, so earmark those days in September. More details to follow.





Winter 2008

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:

- March 16: Science Extravaganza & Dessert Auction
- March 16: Open House
- April 1-30: Student Art Show
- April 20: Open House
- May 13 & 14: Spring Sharing
- May 15: Spring Sharing Gala
- June 6: Graduation & Alumni Reunion
- June - Aug.: Japhet Summer Camps

Japhet School

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A Letter from the Head of School

Japhet School's motto is "strength for the future." To provide strength for the future of Japhet we have actively been working on our Strategic Plan.

In May 2007, the Japhet School Board of Trustees voted to endorse a **Strategic Plan** that reflected the participation and collective vision of members of the Japhet School community. Since then strategic coordinators and committee members have defined action steps for each of the specific strategies, and they created a five-year calendar for completing them. Strategies include Marketing, Student Retention, Scholarship Fund, Alumni Relationships, Diversification, Relocation, Compensation, Fundraising, Grant Writing, New Resources, Tuition, and Curriculum Best Practices.



In March 2008, participants from the April 2007 Strategic Planning Workshop will gather to discuss our first-year progress and implementation. Here are a few highlights:

- The main goal of the Scholarship Fund strategy is to raise additional scholarship funds. In support of this strategy we have reinstated Japhet's golf outing "Fore the Kids." This event helped raise an additional \$5,000 for scholarships this year.
- Implementation of Best Practices includes the forming of academic committees, reviewing standardized testing results, and reevaluating the scope and sequence of Middle School Math so that Japhet eighth-grade students have an exposure to Algebra I. I am pleased to report that all eighth-grade students are working in Algebra I or higher. Adjustments to our math curriculum have been made to continue to provide Algebra I to all future eighth-grade students.
- The Alumni Relations committee has met its objective of having an alumni column in each newsletter since the adoption of the Strategic Plan. The committee also is planning an Alumni Reunion for June 2008.

Within the next year, you may be asked to complete a survey related to one or more of these strategies. If you are interested in receiving a copy of Japhet's Strategic Plan or a summary of our first-year progress and implementation report, please contact me.

Cathy Mohan
Head of School

Open House News



During our January Open House, student hosts led guests on a tour of the school to meet teachers, see classrooms, and talk with Cathy Mohan, our Head of School, and Robin Pospisil, our Admissions Director. Twelve families visited and were impressed with the type of education Japhet offers.

Enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year begins February 1. Our next **Open House** is scheduled as part of our **Science Extravaganza & Dessert Auction on Sunday, March 16 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM**. We will also have an **Open House on Sunday, April 20 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM**. If you know of families that might be interested in Japhet School, please invite them to come, or better yet bring them as your guests.

A cheery Middle Class student.

Who are the Power Pirates?

Japhet Middle-Schoolers who enjoy building with Lego®, working as a team, and solving problems know the answer: the Power Pirates is the name of a team of Japhet fifth- through eighth-graders who chose to participate in the school's Lego Robotics team.

Led by parents Caryn and Mike Galat, Japhet's robotics team meets most Mondays after school. To prepare for the local robotics competition in Sterling Heights in October, the team met several times a week to get ready. The team was required to prepare a presentation about power, because the focus of this year's competition was "Power Puzzle." They also had to complete several specific challenges using a Lego robot that they assembled, programmed, and controlled.

Japhet School is proud to sponsor a robotics team that competes among local public and private middle schools. This year the team placed 19th out of 34 teams, and it received a special award for its presentation – specifically, for an innovative solution regarding energy. Go, Japhet Power Pirates!

Gratitude for Our Sponsors

Japhet has had two sponsors for events in the past few months, and we would like to recognize their involvement with us and financial support. At our golf outing for scholarships, McNaughton-McKay Electric Company sponsored our grand prize, which consisted of golf packages, restaurant certificates, and trophies for the winning foursome. Our second sponsor was National City Bank. Japhet and National City Bank have had a long-standing relationship, and it sponsored our 18 Reasons for Hope luncheon in November. Thank you McNaughton-McKay and National City for backing Japhet's mission, *"to nurture and prepare each child for life by integrating character education with a strong academic program."*

A View into Jap

Every day brings a new learning adventure



Our Kindergarten students worked cooperatively to create an impressive city of blocks!



Japhet Elementary and Middle School students enjoy Art twice a week.



A Middle Class science lab invited students to examine prisms, an activity that required students to wear special glasses.



Students have weekly Technology lessons beginning in Primary Class.



Intermediate and Upper Class students worked on a cooperative learning activity that required them to build something while protecting themselves from "the elements."



An Intermediate Class student works on a Robotics team project.

Let's Celebrate in our Japhet Classrooms

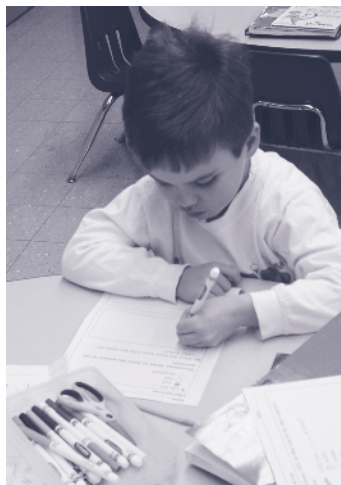
Share the love with Japhet students. Enjoy these photos!



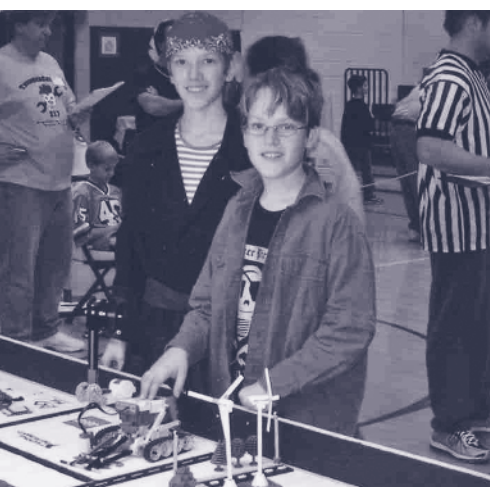
Elementary School students, like these Upper Class girls, enjoy



Technology Class



This dutiful Primary Class boy knows that industry is just as important a tool as pencils and markers are.



Student and his brother, a Japhet alum, competed in Lego at Japhet's Power Pirates.



A Kindergarten parent visited her daughter's classroom during International Week in January, and she taught the class Korean customs and how to make sushi.



A smocked Preschool student painted her artwork using an apple as her painting tool.

Summer Camps Open for Enrollment!

Walk into Japhet School this summer and you'll see the cheery smiles of students and teachers who are spending their summer days together. Japhet offers an Early Childhood Summer Camp for children who are 3 to 6 years old. Thematic Summer Camps are open for students who are 7 to 14 years old. We welcome new friends, so campers may be children who are not Japhet students. Here's a peek ... for a full brochure, fees, and an application to enroll, give Japhet a call!

Early Childhood Summer Program –

June 16-August 22

Thematic Summer Camps

Circus Camp – June 16-20

Games O' Rama – June 16-20

Pre-Algebra Exploration –
June 16-20 or August 4-8

Dance – June 16-20, June 23-27, or July 7-11

Tennis for Beginners – June 23-27

Japhet Drama Troupe – June 23-27

Fun With Math – June 23-27

American Sign Language – June 23-27

Trash to Treasures - Altered Art – July 7-11

La Concina Latina (Spanish Cooking!) –
July 7-11

Wonderworld Theme Park – July 14-18

Pre-Reading Fun – July 14-18

Magic Camp – July 14-18

Beading and Macrame Fun – July 14-18

Creative Clay - Basic Handbuilding –
July 14-18

Ceramics - Tile Making – July 14-18

Festive Basketweaving – July 21-25

Sew Amazing – July 21-25

Picture Perfect – July 21-25

Advanced Magic Camp – July 28-August 1

Pasta Perfection – July 28-August 1

Fun in the Kitchen for Adults – August 4-8