



Winter 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:

- March 1: Open House
- March 15: Science Extravaganza & Dessert Auction
- April 4: Annual Strategic Plan Meeting and Progress Report
- May 13 & 14: Spring Sharing
- May 15: Spring Sharing Gala
- June 5: Graduation

Japhet School

31201 Dorchester • Madison Heights, MI 48071 • 248/585-9150 • www.japhet.org

Message from the Head of School



Cathy Mohan
Head of School

"Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others."

– Barbara Bush, former First Lady

Service is an important component of our character education curriculum, and it also unites us as a school community. This year, we have chosen to focus our efforts on Heifer International, a nonprofit organization that sends live animals to impoverished families all over the world, and the training to sustain them. In the fall and early winter, students, teachers, and staff raised the funds to sponsor a live sheep and rabbits to be delivered to a community in need. Animals that Heifer supplies include cows, oxen, pigs, chickens, honeybees, goats, and more.

The announcement that Japhet School would support Heifer International as a service project was made to students in September during our weekly Monday morning character assembly. During this assembly, the whole school community gathers to participate in a 45-minute presentation about the character quality of the month, which also includes one or two student presentations about historical people of character, and school events for the week. Our Chapels are open to all, and they begin at 8:45 AM on Monday.

Now that the sheep and rabbits are on their way, students have decided to raise funds for honeybee setups and training in Tanzania, a country on the east coast of Africa. The Primary Class of first- and second-graders organized a used book sale in January, and Japhet's fifth- and sixth-graders will host a talent show with paid admission in April. If you would like to support our service efforts for Heifer, you can use Japhet School's "gift registry" at www.heifer.org.

It's wonderful that Heifer International enables this kind of giving. Seeing the enthusiasm from our students – knowing that they're doing extra chores at home to bring their quarters and dollars to donate – warms the heart.

Cathy Mohan
Head of School



Japhet students were delighted to see the sheep become covered with wool and the three rabbits to grow their cottonball tails, signifying donations. Supporting Heifer International is an ongoing service focus this year involving the whole community.

Want to take a tour?

Come see what's happening at Japhet. Even if you've visited Japhet before, it's worth the trip! One friend of the school says, "I learn something new every time I visit!"

Japhet 101 Tours are scheduled every Monday at 8:30 AM and Tuesday at 1:30 PM.

Our next Open House is **Sunday, March 1, from 1:00 - 3:00 PM**. You are also invited to join us on **Sunday, March 15 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM** for Japhet's Science Extravaganza and Dessert Auction.

A View into Japhet Classrooms

Every day brings a new learning adventure to Japhet students. Enjoy the



Susan Ellithorpe, former Japhet Kindergarten teacher, visited during Social Studies Fair and caught up with three of her former students, now in Upper Class.



These Intermediate Class students enjoy snow play during a wintery recess!



All Japhet students, like these Primary Class keyboardists, have music class each week.



This Middle Class student sets a fine example of industry.



This pair of pals enjoyed a beautiful fall day at the Pumpkin Patch.

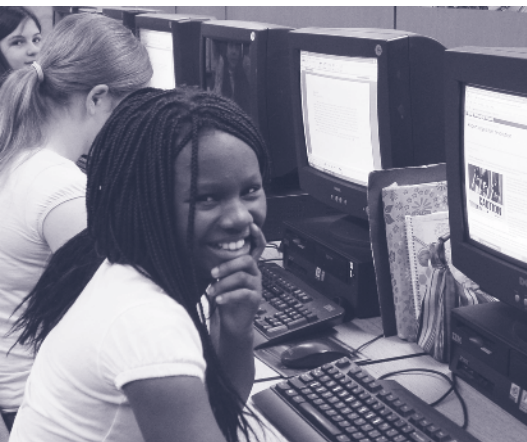


Preschoolers enjoyed playing with the texture of loose, dried corn during their study of harvest in the fall.

ese photos!



This Upper Class girl had two Preschool buddies to play with on our annual Pumpkin Patch field trip. "Buddy" activities take place all year long.



Japhet Middle School students rely on the lab not just for Technology class, but also to complete Language Arts, Global Studies, and Science classwork.



Daily recess and exercise is an important part of each student's day, including that of these seventh-grade boys.

Alumni Update

Emily (Commer) Wiechers, J'95

Emily lives in New York City where she and husband Stan welcomed their son Tristan in February of 2008. The whole family traveled to Michigan this fall and attended Social Studies Fair. Emily enjoyed her return visit and the outstanding reports and student interaction. She said it was great to walk in the door and hear the halls filled with song, smell the amazing food, and get hugs and smiles at every step. Everyone at Japhet was thrilled to see her and meet her family.

Emily works for CDS International, which provides opportunities for students to gain leadership and work experience in foreign countries, as their Events and Development Coordinator.

Arthur Brock, J'81

Arthur Brock also visited Japhet School this fall while in the Detroit area. He talked with the Upper Class about the current economic woes of the United States and the growing national debt. He shared with these students some ideas for trade-based economies in small business and communities as a solution to cash-flow and resource problems.

Art also shared a few highlights and memories from his days at Japhet. He remembers Patty Watterson and Sheila Norris as great teachers, and particularly enjoyed Friday afternoon sing-alongs with Sheila and Deb Eastwood. He is sure he still knows all of those songs.

After Japhet and Principia Upper School, Arthur graduated from Michigan State and worked for GM, Chrysler and Hughes Aircraft. He then launched a series of businesses ranging from software design and internet development to engine invention and development. His latest venture is Targeted Currencies Network. Art also contributes to the community through involvement in business alliances, educational foundations, and promoting local business in Colorado where he now resides.

Molly Danner, J'96

Molly Danner spoke on behalf of Japhet at the "18 Reasons for Hope" fundraising luncheon in November this year. She expressed her gratitude for Japhet's solid academic preparation, and the school's role in developing her disciplined work habits, communication skills, and eagerness to learn and to travel. She also talked about the decision-making and leadership skills and self-confidence fostered by Japhet's teachers who knew her so well.

Molly currently resides in the Washington D.C. area and works as the Operations and Marketing Coordinator for National Geographic's travel and tour division, Expeditions. She is thrilled with her job as she worked diligently to secure a position with this company – serving two back-to-back internships to be on the spot when an opportunity arose. She feels her love of travel and marketing focus was cultivated by Social Studies Fairs, class trips, and the journal writing done for each journey. As Molly says, "Japhet empowered me to be an intellectual explorer."

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



Emily Wiechers visited from New York with her baby son, Tristan.



In addition to the alumni featured in the article, Case Ives, J '03, visited Japhet during International Week to share his experiences in Finland and other countries. His original jacket says it all! He presented with Sigrid, a foreign exchange student from Sweden who is living with Japhet teacher Brenda Gaunt.



31201 Dorchester
Madison Heights, MI 48071
www.japhet.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
PERMIT NO. 624
ROYAL OAK, MI

A Strong Year of Parent Support

The Parent Support Group (PSG) has been very busy this year working to enhance Japhet programs and create fun social events for parents and students.

Our annual Kathryn Beich fundraiser raised more than \$2,000 in the fall and started off our year with a bang. We are looking forward to the Dessert Auction on **Sunday, March 15**, as our next big fundraising event. It's a great day of treat tasting and Japhet fun! Hope to see you there! We continue to collect General Mills Box Tops and Campbell's Soup Labels, which provide funds as well as supplies for Japhet.

We have some new, exciting fundraisers this year. The Kroger Card program is a great way to earn money for the PSG. If you shop at Kroger, you just put money on your gift card and buy your groceries. Keep refilling your card with money to buy groceries, gift cards, gas, etc. – Japhet earns 5% of all money spent. We have already received a check from Kroger for \$350. This is an ongoing program, and if you would like a Kroger Card of your own, please contact Japhet. The cards are \$5 a piece. Send them to friends and family who also shop at Kroger. It's not only a fundraiser, but also a great way to spread the word about Japhet! We also have a program with Hollywood Market. We collect receipts from Hollywood purchases (a collection bin can be found in the school lobby, or you can mail them to us) and earn award points that allow us to select school supplies from a catalogue of items.

So, as you can see, we've been busy! Many hands have helped keep the PSG rolling along, so thank you to all those that support us. We appreciate you!

Summer Camps at Japhet School

Plans are in the works for our summer day camp program! Japhet plans to offer an Early Childhood Summer Camp for children who are 3 to 6 years old, and a variety of Thematic Summer Camps for students who are 7 to 14 years old. We welcome new friends, so campers may be children who are not Japhet students. Stay tuned to our web site at www.japhet.org for a list of Thematic Day Camps and the weeks during which they'll take place.

Japhet School Board of Trustees

President

Patricia Tibbetts

Vice-President

Jack McNaughton

Secretary

Barb Quincey

Treasurer

Jay Schmitt

Board Members

Ted Balowski

Judy Gettel

Susan Golbiw

Terry Helgesen

Carole Hilzinger

David Holt

Julie Knaffla

Ann Nicholson

Alistair Savides

Penny Strelow

Nancy Thayer