



# JAPHET SCHOOL

Award-winning National School of Character

WINTER 2011

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

## Higher Education

This school year we have journeyed into a new frontier: *college*.

Specifically, we've hosted students from Michigan State University, Oakland University, and even a drop-in from Harvard University. These connections strengthen our reputation in the educational realm and have had an immediate impact on our students.

Our relationship with Michigan State University – made possible by Japhet and MSU alumna Kelly Mazurkiewicz – brought new marketing ideas into the school. College instructor Dave Regan selected Japhet School as a case study for his fall senior-level advertising class. Teams of MSU students visited Japhet to compile a "SWOT" analysis – strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. They surveyed parents and people outside our community. Eight teams each created their own marketing and advertising plan for Japhet School. Some proposed a new logo, and others created tangible materials like an 18-pack of "character quality" crayons. One team gave each character quality its own memorable icon, shown here.

We are at the trailhead of what we hope will become a continual collaboration with Oakland University's department of teacher education. Japhet parent Amanda Proctor, an OU professor, helped put Japhet in OU's sights as a placement for "field experiences." OU requires its aspiring teachers to have several field placements prior to student teaching. David Secord, OU School of Education's

Coordinator of School and Field Services, was impressed during his visit with our commitment to teaching the whole child, and said that every teacher should have the opportunity to spend some time at a school like Japhet. In January, two new teachers-in-training joined us, now supporting our Middle Class and Upper Class teachers. We feel fortunate to be mentoring future educators.

Also in January, we hosted Harvard student Eric Chung who spoke to our fifth- through eighth-grade students about college life. He stressed the importance of reliability, decision-making, and self-organization. He encouraged our students to prepare now for college by earning high academic marks, getting involved, and befriending a diverse group of people.

At Japhet we strive to apply "best-practice" teaching methods. It is great to discover that colleges have their sights on us, seeking the same for their own programs.



Personal habits



Industry



Humility



Reliability



Respect for self

### Upcoming Events:

Science Extravaganza, Open House  
& Dessert Auction  
March 13

Japhet Journey Tours  
March 28, April 26 & April 28

Moving Forward with Technology  
April 12

Open House  
April 17

Benefit Dinner  
May 5

Spring Sharing  
May 18, 19 & 20

Graduation  
June 10

Cathy Mohan

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MESSAGE FROM THE  
HEAD OF SCHOOL



## Judy Miller Honored DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER

“Empowering.” This word describes Judy Miller, former trustee and Japhet parent, whom the Association of Fundraising Professionals honored with a Distinguished Volunteer award at the 19th Annual National Philanthropy Day dinner that took place in November.

Judy Miller, an active philanthropist, served on the school’s Board of Trustees and provided a smooth and stable environment during a key transition for Japhet in the mid-1990s. She also introduced Japhet to the Benevon model for fundraising. “Judy continues to be an active ambassador for Japhet,” says Cathy Mohan, Head of School. “Industry, courage, perseverance, dedication, open-mindedness, humility, generosity, and love are some character qualities integrated in Japhet’s curriculum that Judy exudes, contributing to her effectiveness.”

## Academics & Character in Action

During Social Studies Fair, Intermediate Class students (left) were tour guides through a prehistoric hands-on museum, and Middle Class students (right) prepared reports and skits about Michigan and its history.



Japhet’s Recycling Committee sponsored a coat drive for the South Oakland Shelter. Here, two Kindergarten students pile up with some of the donations.



Percussionist duo Musica Batteria taught students that they all have their own “built in” percussion instrument during an all-school music assembly.



We recently sent more than 200 paper dolls to impoverished children in India. Sponsored by Rotary International, this service project enabled our students to help color, cut, and assemble the dolls.



Family Math Night invited parents and their children to test their math skills together with activities such as Recipe Math, Time Jeopardy, an Estimation Station, and much more.

## ATTENDING JAPHET SCHOOL ON SCHOLARSHIP

We are pleased to announce that, for a third year, we are able to offer a full-year scholarship to a new student attending Japhet School. New this year is the choice to apply the full award to one year or divide it in half to support two years. In addition, we offer three partial scholarships for new families. Current families have five scholarships available, including two brand-new scholarships: the Grandparents of Japhet School Merit Award and the Japhet School Leadership Grant.

All scholarships are merit-based. Full details and application instructions are on our web site, [www.japhetschool.org](http://www.japhetschool.org). Under the Admissions tab, click on “Financial Aid / Scholarship.”

## Save the Date for the Benefit Dinner

Japhet’s annual Benefit Dinner will take place on Thursday, May 5, at the Village Club of Bloomfield Hills. It is free to attend this inspiring dinner and fundraiser. To reserve your place or to volunteer to be a table captain, contact our Development Director Cheryl Haithco at [cheryl.haithco@japhetschool.org](mailto:cheryl.haithco@japhetschool.org).

# SUPPORT JAPHET SCHOOL

## Donate Online!

It’s even easier to donate to Japhet School! Just visit [www.japhetschool.org](http://www.japhetschool.org), and under the “Support Us” tab, click “Donate.” From there you can use PayPal to donate securely. As a 501(c)(3) organization, your donation is 100% tax-deductible.

## Visit Japhet School

Learn more about how Japhet School nurtures every student and integrates character education into academics with our award-winning curriculum ... attend a Japhet Journey Tour. Upcoming tour dates are March 28 at 8:30 AM, April 26 at 1 PM, and April 28 at 1 PM. Invite a guest!

Become a fan  
of Japhet School



## Cameron's Crusade



Japhet teacher Julia Wasiluk with son Cameron & husband Kurt.

We have big hearts wrapped around our next all-school service project. It is for one of our own families, the Wasiluks. Julia and Kurt’s daughter Grace has attended Japhet for two years, and their son, Cameron, is a special-needs child who does not attend Japhet. The Wasiluks need support in obtaining new equipment that helps them transport Cameron, who is growing quickly. Specifically, they need a car lift, gait trainer, and a ramp for their home.

“Cameron was a healthy little boy who was full of life,” says Julia. “He enjoyed catching bugs, reading, drawing, and anything scary. He dreamed of becoming a knight when he grew up. He was full of compassion for others and a delightful sense of humor.” When he was 5, Cameron became ill with a common virus that was followed by severe complications without explanation.

Today Cameron has epilepsy, is non-verbal and cortically blind, and is susceptible to fractures. “The day-to-day life with a special needs child throws us many challenges,” says Julia, who works tirelessly to gain public services to which Cameron is entitled. Most critical today are devices that aid in his transportation because Cameron is no longer a small child. “While almost every aspect of life

has changed for us, we are thankful every single day for Cameron and his sister, Grace, and all the love they bring us, and for all the wonderful people who have helped us along this difficult journey.”

Many opportunities to support this service project are in place for winter and spring! In February our Primary Class sold fresh popcorn, and local Noodles & Company donated part of a night’s proceeds to Cameron’s Crusade. During the first week of March, Japhet is having a Used Book Sale. On Friday, March 25, we invite the greater community to join our students at a Family Fun Night

at Fairlanes Bowl in Madison Heights. On March 31 our students will showcase their individual talents during our Talent Show, which has always supported a service project.

We are grateful that the Wasiluk family found Japhet, for not only did we gain a family but also a talented and experienced teacher — Julia teaches middle school math, helps in Early Childhood, and serves as a substitute. We hope as a community we can make a positive difference for them, too. Contact [betsy.stecker@japhetschool.org](mailto:betsy.stecker@japhetschool.org) if you would like to support the Cameron’s Crusade service project.



# Alumni News

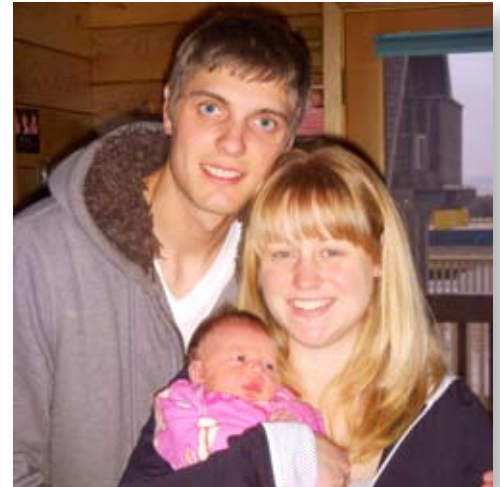
## Sarah Poche XJ'06

Sarah is in the Dental Hygiene program at University of Detroit. She is living on campus where she has a great roommate. Sarah says she finds it nice to be around people with similar interests and the motivation to excel. Sarah continues to sing with Asphalt Barnyard, a local country-rock band. You might catch her performance at the Orion Sports Bar or at an outdoor concert in the town of Leonard.

Sarah has great Japhet memories, and says that Japhet was where she learned the most about becoming the person she wants to be. She says that anyone can learn the facts in books, but that in most settings not nearly enough emphasis is being put on teaching kids how to be a good person.

## Graham Ives J'01

Congratulations to Graham and his wife Samantha on the arrival of their daughter Claire Elizabeth in mid-December. Graham and Samantha live in Prescott, Arizona, and are looking forward to a trip to Michigan in summer to introduce Claire to her mid-west family. (See photo.) We look forward to meeting her!



The Ives family: Japhet alumnus Graham, Samantha, and newborn Claire

## Scott Knaffla J'02

Scott has moved north by northwest to Marquette in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Besides shoveling large quantities of snow, Scott is working as a para-planner for Ameriprise Financial while preparing to take his securities license test.

### A Little Drama Please!

The Japhet Spring Sharing stage inspires many students to stay involved in acting and theatre during their high school careers. Currently the following Japhet students are involved in productions:

**Emily Strub J'10** – a freshman at Waterford High School, Emily is playing Mrs. Sourberry in the school production of *Oliver*.

**Grant Demeter J'07** – Grant has had two leading roles this year as a senior at U of D Jesuit High School. He played a very funny Maxwell Smart in *Get Smart* this fall and is currently rehearsing for Cosmo Brown in *Singing in the Rain*.

**Hannah Hilzinger J'07, Clint White J'07, and Joey White J'10** – these alumni have reunited in the drama department of Royal Oak High School. Hannah was Props Manager, and Clint and Joey worked on the stage and construction crews of *Cinderella* this fall. All three are similarly involved in the upcoming production of *Little Women*.

**Brittany Newton J'08** – this seasoned singer is rehearsing to play Natalie in *All Shook Up* at Almont High School this spring. Brittany is in her junior year.

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).



**JAPHET SCHOOL**  
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