



# JAPHET SCHOOL

Award-winning National School of Character

WINTER 2012

## SPECIAL CLASSES

### Enrich, Integrate, Cultivate Learners

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



This Upper Class student is painting a piece inspired by modern artist Piet Mondrian as part of a lesson that also taught art history.



This first-grader isn't just making a cookie; in her mind she's adding windows to an urban building. It's a Life Skills activity integrated with a social studies unit on communities.



Teaching students how to respectfully communicate and complete a task as a team is a key component in Japhet's physical education classes.

"Core Classes" refer to those subjects considered most important to a child's education: reading, math, language arts, science, and social studies. A well rounded student, however, also studies fine and performing arts, participates in physical activity, stays current with technology, explores a foreign language, and learns life skills such as cooking. We call these "Special Classes," and Japhet specialists purposefully integrate their subjects with what students are learning in core classes. This creates a broader understanding of the subject and cultivates excitement to learn.

### Upcoming Events.

Science Extravaganza,  
Dessert Auction,  
& Open House  
March 18

Open House  
April 15

Benefit Dinner  
May 3

Spring Sharing & Gala  
May 16, 17, & 18

Graduation  
June 8

Golf Outing  
June 25



Students learned how to use several Orff instruments in fall music classes and performed their new talents in the Celebrate December concert.

# innovation & invention



Japhet educators are thinking innovatively! Innovation involves thinking differently, expanding perspectives, and rethinking assumptions. In the school, this is evident when Preschoolers use technology to explore the ocean, Intermediate students discuss a current event through Wikispaces, or Middle Class students create a video commercial to demonstrate their knowledge of simple machines. Outside of the school, the use of a quick-response (QR) code in our print advertising engages the mobile market.

Japhet students are becoming inventors! They are thinking innovatively as they solve problems – using initiative and industry to create new and different solutions. They are recording ideas in logbooks, conducting research, and designing models.

I invite you to join us on March 18 for our annual Science Extravaganza, Dessert Auction, and Open House – a fun event for the whole family.

*Cathy Mohan*  
cathy.mohan@japhetschool.org

Smartphone users can instantly scan this QR code and go to our website.



“The principal goal of education is to create men who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done.”  
~ Jean Piaget



A science student walks two younger students through an electricity model he made.



This Science Extravaganza “take apart” activity lets students deconstruct inventions of the past.

## Ann Nicholson and Pat Tibbetts HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEERS

“Intuitive.” This word describes Japhet trustee Ann Nicholson, whose 35 years in community affairs have had a positive impact on education. Pat Tibbetts, who served Japhet as a parent, teacher, Head of School, and trustee, was singularly defined as “Gracious.” Nicholson and Tibbetts were both honored as Distinguished Volunteers at the 20th Annual National Philanthropy Day dinner that took place in November.

Ann Nicholson’s advocacy for education is honored in the community at large. In addition to serving on Japhet’s board, she serves on the board of Oakland University, where she supports scholarship and has been at the forefront of the university’s launch of a medical school. For Japhet, her wisdom and vast experience in education have lent an intuitive voice to the board. “Her insight has been a valuable asset,” says Cathy Mohan, “for which Japhet is truly grateful.”

Under Pat’s leadership, Japhet became the nation’s first independent – and Michigan’s very first – school to be named a National School of Character. She also implemented Michigan’s State Schools of Character program. As of 2012 there are 12 Michigan schools that have been so awarded, and more Michigan schools are initiating active character programs each year. “Exemplifying the qualities of initiative and diplomacy, Pat is an effective advocate who graciously enacts positive change in schools,” says Mohan.

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## Alumni News

# Big news from two very creative Japhet alumni. Watch for these names on a screen near you!

Tori Ellithorpe, J'04



Tori is a senior at Ithaca College, studying cinematography and film. She is currently spending her last semester in Los Angeles as an intern for the Discovery Channel before her graduation in May with a Bachelor of Science in Cinema and Photography. Tori interned for two summers as a video content manager at Time Warner Cable and made four films at school. Her most recent film was her senior thesis film, "The Harry Potter Project" – a film that explores the phenomena behind Harry Potter. Tori plans to stay in L.A., and she would like to work in live television. A dream job would be the technical director for a show like "American Idol" or live awards shows such as the Academy Awards. The technical director is the one who controls every image that appears on the screen. Says Tori of her chosen field, "I find live television to be a crazy, hectic experience where I find the most joy. It's terrifying when something goes wrong, but it's incredibly rewarding when it all goes right."

Perry Janes, J'03



Perry is the writer and director of a new film: *Zug*. A senior at the University of Michigan, he has been the recipient of six Hopwood Awards for Poetry, Fiction and Screenwriting. Perry's film is set in Detroit, a city filled with myths and urban legends. *Zug* is the story of two boys from the outskirts of Detroit forced to straddle the boundary between city and suburbs. Upon a dare from their classmates, they resolve to sneak inside the mysterious Zug Island. "The film is a coming-of-age story that explores the problematic images and narratives about Detroit by following two boys on a quest for their own identity," writes Perry. "Through Donovan's eyes, Detroit becomes a character to be explored – and challenged. Ultimately *Zug* is meant to create a new narrative for the city, one that explores its stereotypes and myths and refutes them." *Zug* is slated to debut in Ann Arbor in mid-April. To learn more about the screening of this film, read Perry's blog, or support sponsorship opportunities, visit the film's website at [www.zugfilm.com](http://www.zugfilm.com).



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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