



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Japhet School celebrates its 50th year focusing on community service and gratitude

CLAWSON, Mich., Dec. 7, 2022 -- As Japhet School celebrates its 50th year, the students and faculty continue to show how character education combined with a strong academic program is integral to the school's mission and to helping children grow into caring adults. Some upcoming events:

Family Service Night - Thursday, Dec. 8 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Community service is a valuable part of a Japhet School education and a requirement for graduation. Japhet School's 8th grade students will lead the community service projects. Students and their families are invited to help other people in need by participating in this event. To attend, families are asked to bring donations of non-perishable items to support the Japhet School food drive for **Attack Hunger Detroit** (attackhunger.com), held from December 5-16.

- **Care Bags for the Homeless** ~ help the junior kindergarten/kindergarten community service project making Care Bags for the homeless and those in need. More than 200 care bags have been assembled and delivered to date.
- **Fleece Scarf Making** ~ scarves will be cut, fringed, and folded to be distributed with the Care Bags being created in preschool and kindergarten. * **Japhet School is accepting donations of fleece to support the scarf-making project room. Fleece can be dropped to the school's front office starting the week of December 5.**
- **Puzzle Making** ~ Using pre-cut puzzle cardboard, participants will create fun pictures to be donated to a local children's hospital.
- **Cards for Seniors and Veterans** ~ Please join us to make creative holiday greeting cards for distributing to local veterans and a local senior center.

Japhet School Holiday Giving 2022 -- Thursday, Dec. 15 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

It's a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season with merry music and singing! The Japhet community is invited to attend this year's program in the gym. Led by Japhet's music teacher Lily Belle Czartorski, each classroom from preschool to middle school will be performing songs followed by an audience sing-along. This is a joyous time to unite as a community celebrating peace, the holiday season, musical merriment, and friendship. This will be a "dress up" event for students.

50th Anniversary Gratitude Service

In addition to the upcoming events, Japhet School recently held its annual Gratitude Service in person again after a hiatus during the pandemic. More than 120 people attended the service including families and Japhet School supporters.

At Japhet School's 50th anniversary Gratitude Service, each student and faculty member shared how they live in gratitude and what they've done in the past year for the community. Middle school students led the service, and each class shared heartfelt gratitude through songs, stories, poems, and a slide show.

The community sharing highlighted why Japhet School has endured and thrived through its 50 years.

"The founders created the Gratitude Service when Japhet School first opened and still today it is one of my favorite events of the year. One parent shared she was grateful that her daughter finally felt like she belonged," said Kerri Vizena, head of school, Japhet School. "Another mom recounted a story about how her son in his 20s still uses the lessons he learned at Japhet to resolve conflict as an adult. It's gratifying to hear how our Japhet School family lives out our 18 character qualities each and every day."

About Japhet School:

Founded in 1973, Japhet School is an independent school, serving children in the metropolitan Detroit area in preschool through eighth grade. Its mission is to nurture and prepare each child for life by integrating character education with a strong academic program. The school provides small classes of fewer than 20 students in each, which enables teachers to challenge students with academic material that is appropriate for their intellectual readiness, regardless of age or grade. Integrated with strong academics is Japhet School's national award-winning character education curriculum, which builds a peaceful community within the school. The school's public speaking curriculum gives graduates confidence in leadership roles. Japhet is a National School of Character: it was the first school in Michigan -- and the first independent school in the country -- to receive this award. To learn more about Japhet, visit japhetschool.org or follow Japhet School on social media at: Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/JaphetSchool>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/japhetschool>

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCcoNkNHdPvRAi8lc7CF0kNA>

LinkedIn: <https://linkedin.com/company/891460>

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Photos of the 2022 Gratitude Services and the 2021 Ukrainian collection drive can be found at:

[Japhet School photos](#)

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