

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents, Guardians, Teachers, and Students:

Our new school year is off to a great start. We are adjusting to our newly expanded campus and the challenges to safety and logistics that our 13 Learning Cottages present. Both our faculty and students have taken the many changes with generally good humor and grace. We loved seeing so many of our parents at Back to School Night and appreciated your positive reception to our many changes. As you can probably tell, I am very enthusiastic about our wonderful faculty and love having the opportunity to share them with you.

During this 20th Anniversary Year we invite all TJ student and adult organizations to contribute through events and/or resources to our yearlong celebration. Please contact Joan Ozdogan, the Executive Director of the Jefferson Partnership Fund, if you or someone you know (graduate, former faculty, or parent) are interested in participating in the planning of the culminating Gala weekend, May 20-21, 2006. We hope to celebrate our many accomplishments during our two decades throughout the year and invite everyone to contribute ideas and resources. Our success has been the result of enormous talent and commitment despite the gaps in funding. With your help, both individually and collectively, we hope to make significant financial strides during this 20th Anniversary Year.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita remind us about how fortunate we are to be able to have a smooth school opening with a fully functioning school to attend. Your support of our Student Government's initiative to assist our Gulf Coast neighbors is truly appreciated. We always remember the Biblical injunction that "to those whom much is given, much is expected." Service to others is an expectation of our entire Jefferson Community. In this way we put into action our values and belief that our students can be both smart and good.

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President's Message

Dear TJ Community,

School has been in session for one month, and life at TJ is in full swing. Back to School Night was a great success with attendance in record numbers. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to visit your student's classrooms and meet their teachers. Thank you to those who joined us at the annual PTSA General Meeting. The main order of business was to approve the 2005-2006 budget. It was unanimously approved and the PTSA is looking forward to supporting many worthwhile activities. Copies of the budget are available online at the PTSA website. The 2004-2005 books were also audited by Mia Leswing (Kif, '08) and her responsiveness, thoroughness and attention to detail is greatly appreciated. The audit will be adopted at our next general meeting.

To all who submitted their membership forms, volunteer forms, letter jacket orders, and All Night Grad Party volunteer/donation forms: *Thank you!* If you have not returned your forms, you may leave them at the main office. Special thanks to everyone who purchased a PTSA 20th Anniversary Edition Student Directory during Back to School night. The student directory is full of "must know" information about the school and student activities, so if you don't have your copy yet, you can purchase one for \$10 in the main office. There are several dedicated Directory Committee members who were involved in transforming this vast amount of information into a compact, easy to read book and they deserve recognition and thanks for their efforts: Linda Maxfield (Myles, '07), Nancy Sharma (Alisha, '08), Andrea Field (Ben, '06), Dorry Emmer (Geoff, '06), and Vicky Linnell (Mary, '09). Great Job, Directory Team! Also, thanks to our Directory Sales Co-Chairs Kathy and Kevin Green (Pledger, '07), who organized the directory sale and coordinated the wonderful volunteers (parents and students) who sold the directories during Back to School night.

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(Cont. Principal's Letter)

Fall is a wonderful time of year with the excitement of all of the activities that go along with the season. Homecoming is probably the biggest event of the fall season and certainly one of the great traditions at TJ. This year will be no exception. The theme for this year's Homecoming is "Conjunction Junction," and the week is October 24-29. Each of the classes has identified a unique Theme and will be working to make their individual class stand out in the daily events during Homecoming Week. Events for the week include: Spirit Days, The Float, Class Skit, Musical Extravaganza, Spirit Banner, Class Cheer, Spirit Halls, Bonfire and Football Game on Friday Night, and Homecoming Dance on Saturday Night. This is truly a spectacular event at TJ and is one where the whole school comes together for the purpose of celebrating our identity as a school and a school community. For those of you that have donated your garage, driveway and/or backyard for float building, we thank you. For all of you that will assist as volunteers during this busy week, we commend you; and for those of you that have not seen or participated in this event, we encourage you to get involved and to be part of it, for it is spectacular.

I look forward to working with all of you to make our 20th Anniversary Year the best ever at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Join the PTSA and attend its meetings and my Parent Coffee on November 10. Be informed so you can be involved in the life of this great school. So be sure to sign up for our Keep In Touch service.

The Best of Autumn to all of you,

Elizabeth V. Lodal
Principal

(Cont. President's Message)

If you are a member of the PTSA, your directory address will be used for postal delivery of *Tech Cetera* starting with the November issue. If you would like a mailed printed copy and you haven't yet joined the PTSA, it is not too late! A membership form is on our home web page at www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa.

Speaking of web, please visit to see our new and improved PTSA Home Page, which is user friendly and quite colorful! We would like to especially thank Qi Wang (Lulu, '08) for initiating and re-designing our website. Log on and catch up with all the TJ news.

I hope you have noticed how inviting the front of the school looks with the wonderful plants, benches and walkway. Every day during lunch, students can be seen enjoying the area with friends. These changes are mostly due to the vision of Kate Rossier (Colleen, '06), Landscape Chair for 2004-05, and her team of dedicated volunteers who have changed the visual image of TJ and the PTSA thanks them for their efforts.

As you know, Jefferson is celebrating its 20th Anniversary and the PTSA is celebrating 20 years of partnership with the school. Throughout this time, the PTSA has made considerable contributions to TJ with funding, volunteers and student enrichment programs. Jefferson has been on a twenty year journey and it is a place of unlimited opportunities today because of the contributions made by the staff, the students, and the parents. So let's celebrate our 20th year together, as a team, working together to accomplish all of our goals.



Thank you for your continuing support. Enjoy the Fall Activities.

Debbie Kilpatrick
PTSA President

PTSA Update

Highlights from the September 12th PTSA Meeting

There was a great turnout at the first meeting of the year. We welcomed new and returning committee chairs and other members of the TJ community. We also heard reports from the administration, faculty and students. **Highlights:**

- Newsletters. The October newsletter will be mailed to all the TJ community. Starting with the November issue, *Tech Cetera* will be mailed to PTSA members only. However, it will be available online on the first school day of the month. If you are signed up with "Keep in Touch" an announcement will be sent that *Tech Cetera* is online.
- Jacket Sales. The PTSA will be selling letter jackets November 29, 30 and December 1st and forms will be available at the Sports Banquet.
- Volunteers. We are still trying to fill several volunteer positions. Please refer to the [Serving the TJ Community](#) page.
- Forum. The PTSA will hold a forum for the TJ community on October 26th. The topic is "Take A Step Back: Put High School in Perspective".

PTSA meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month; however, because of Columbus Day Holiday, the next meeting will be held on **Monday, October 17, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **TJ library.**

Treasurer's Report

The PTSA Board moved and passed for presentation to the general membership the 2005-2006 PTSA Budget. It was presented at Back to School Night for approval. In addition, it was noted that budgeted spending for the PTSA is lower, returning to historical levels, than during the 2004-2005 school year. This is due to a conscious PTSA decision last year to spend down the level of funds carried over and contribute them to the school, predominantly in the area of technology and faculty allocations. Lastly, the audit of the 2004-2005 PTSA books has been completed by an outside auditor and the records of the treasurer were found to be correct.



FCCPTA Update

According to FCCPTA President Lynn Terhar, who attended a meeting with Jack Dale on this topic in early September, as of 9/6/05 there were 14 children identified as displaced due to Katrina who will be placed in Fairfax County schools. Undoubtedly the number will have increased by the time this newsletter is printed. Efforts are underway to help the families through 1) donations (money is preferred as staffing shortage is making any other donation processing unfeasible) and 2) volunteering to host displaced families.

In addition, according to the FCCPTA website, the Cappies are also coordinating performances for fundraising and PTA's can also join the effort by participating in the "Buddypacks" (school supplies) project. The FCCPTA website has specific information about these projects on their main address at: <http://www.fccpta.org/>. Click on the "Newsletter" icon in the banner to get specifics (dates, drop-off site locations, contact information) about Buddypacks.

Also, there is still time to register for the VA PTA/PTSA State Convention on November 11 -13, 2005 at the Sheraton Premiere, Tyson's Corner. Registration deadline is October 2. This is a wonderful opportunity for PTA officers, teachers, or parents to share information about education or children's issues, and to learn how the VA PTA can be an advocate for your efforts. The conference schedule includes state officer elections, PLP (Proposal for Legislative Position) voting, and workshops. Contact the TJ PTSA for more information, or visit the FCCPTA website at the address above.

PTSA Membership News

Community. Advocacy. Tradition. Commitment. Vision. Whatever the reason, families and faculty purposefully dropped off their PTSA membership forms and checks at the TJHSST Back-to-School Night on Sept. 21, 2005, bringing membership to 1,224. As part of the 20th Anniversary celebration, every faculty member and family is encouraged to join the PTSA to show support of all things TJ.

Membership dues represent 16.6% of the PTSA's total income to enhance academic, social and quality of life opportunities that continue to abound for students and teachers in the school. Every membership is a real-time investment.

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Members are encouraged to visit the National PTA web-site, www.pta.org, to tap into special promotions from Member Benefits Providers, including FedEx, Kinko's and Barnes & Noble; to sign-up for e-newsletters on parenting and legislative issues; and more.

To become a member, please visit www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/ to download a membership form or e-mail ptsa.membership@tjhsst.edu with your request or questions.

PTSA Forum

Wednesday, October 26. Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

The PTSA will host its first Forum of the year on October 26th in the school Auditorium. Topics will include the parent's role in shaping their student's high school experience-both their academic career and extracurricular activities. The panel will consist of TJ Alumni, university representatives, TJ Guidance Staff, and TJ students. Join us for a very informative evening! Questions/comments: ptsa.forum@tjhsst.edu

Serving the TJ Community

Volunteers

Lunchtime in the Gym: We are looking for a parent or three who could be the required "adult present" so we can allow the students to run around and burn off energy during lunchtime on Tuesday and Wednesday. Ideally you would say you will come every Wednesday (or Tuesday) **or** maybe you could be on our "substitute list" to fill in if a regular volunteer cannot make it one day. Being able to use the gym at lunchtime gives a real boost to our students so please consider helping us by making the gym available every day of the week.

JLC Help: Do you want to feel virtuous as you commute to work on a Thursday morning? Then consider stopping off at TJ and being a JLC volunteer on the way in. We are looking to expand our list of JLC volunteers. With more volunteers we can job share so you might only have to come every second week. Drive your student to school on that day and stay to help. We need you to be ready to start at 8.00 a.m. and you would be finished by about 8:55 a.m. and back on your way.

Clerical and Copying Assistance: We would like to develop a list of available, enthusiastic parents who could help the faculty, as the need demands, with simple clerical tasks and/or using the copy machines. Most of these jobs, we envisage, would need to be done at school during the school day. But there might be some that could be done at home. Please contact us ptsa.volunteers@tjhsst.edu and let us know we can put you on our calling/email list. If you would only be available on certain days let us know that also. The teaching staff will be enormously grateful to be freed up to do what they do best...teach our students!

Want to Volunteer but don't know how? Then visit our webpage for full details. Go to www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/volunteers.htm Give careful attention to our red Hot Job Spot page. We are always happy to hear from new volunteers and answer your questions. There is no such thing as a silly question!

Cindy Carter and Dorry Emmer
ptsa.volunteers@tjhsst.edu

Website Committee



The New Look of the PTSA Web Page Makes it Easier to Navigate. The next time you visit the PTSA's Internet home <http://www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa>, you will discover that it has a fresh, colorful new look. But, more importantly, its new design makes it easier to navigate and quickly find the information you need. For instance, did you know that the "daily announcement" slide show that your student sees at school is also available for you to view from your very own computer? Check out the link daily at www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa under the "**Links to Related Sites**" section. The entire TJ community thanks co-webmaster Qi Wang (Lulu, 2008) for the improvements to our cyberspace presence. And, for those of you familiar with web development or scripting languages (sql, php, perl), a mere hour or two a month (you can work at home!) can ensure that our PTSA tech presence mirrors the quality of the school itself. Contact Qi Wang or Linda Maxfield at ptsa.webmaster@tjhsst.edu.

Directory

Just a reminder that TJ Directories will be on sale throughout the year at the front office for \$10 each. Get yours while supplies last.

Also, please update your directory information on the PTSA website whenever changes occur so the directory information is current and ready for processing next year's Directory.

Legislation Committee

Helping TJ's Legislative Outreach Efforts: Would you like to use your legal skills and/or Virginia legislative contacts to help TJ? This year will be a busy one, as we undertake two major efforts:

- Participating in the preparations for TJ's 20th Birthday Celebration next May,
- Completing the formation of "Friends of the Virginia Governor's Schools."

TJ at 20: Great Expectations will culminate in a weekend of activities which will include the elected officials who have been instrumental in supporting TJ over the years. Friends of the Virginia Governor's Schools (FOVGS) was chartered in August of 2004 to foster enhanced academic and educational opportunities for the students participating in the 16 Virginia's Governor's Schools, which include TJ. FOVGS also improves public knowledge of the needs of these students by interacting with our elected public officials.

Join the PTSA Legislation Committee's efforts by contacting the Committee's Chair, Anne Dewey-Balzhiser, at [TJLegislative at cox.net](http://TJLegislative@cox.net) or call her at 703-933-2444.

Landscaping Committee

Have you seen the front of the school lately? If not, you should!

On the last Sunday in August, sophomore Matthew Hoel organized a team of fellow Boy Scouts, aided by a few intrepid parents, to transform the two main garden beds in front of the school (the big one in front of the main office and under the school name on the back wall of the library). This was a huge effort and – any day now – should earn him his well-deserved Eagle Scout badge. More than 300 hours were logged in by Matthew, his parents, and fellow scouts in weeding, roto-tilling, adding topsoil, mulching and planting. And the results speak for themselves.

Prior to that day, Matt spent hours contacting local nurseries for donations and discounts on plants. Thanks to his calls, we also give big thanks to Springfield Topsoil Corp., which donated 8 yards of topsoil; Silverbrook Nursery, which gave us a gracious discount on the beautiful crape myrtle, Virginia sweetspire bushes, feather reed grasses, Burford hollies, Russian sage, autumn fire sedum, and baptisia; and to Merrifield Nursery, which gave us a generous discount on seven hollies and ten yarrow plants.

Finally, a huge thank-you goes to TJ parent and Landscape Designer, Ellen Peterson, who provided the spectacular design for these garden beds. Her guiding vision was that of a garden that would be easy to maintain, has native plants, would provide interest all year round (colorful red berries and red and blue flowers, interesting bark, etc), and – most of all – that would enhance the entrance to our wonderful high school.



Support TJ while shopping

It costs you nothing!

1. Giant Food **A+ Bonus Bucks**. Register at: http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/aplus_pin.htm
Enter code: 02307

You must renew every year!

2. Harris Teeter **Together in Education**. Register your VIC Card entering code: 5534at: <http://www.harristeeter.com/default.aspx?pageId=32>

3. Safeway **Club Card for Education**. Register entering code: 154534149 at http://escrip.com/merchants/identity/safe_east/index.jsp

4. Office Depot 5% **Back to Schools**. Program description on: <http://community.officedepot.com/local.asp>
When checking out, ask for "5% back to school for TJHSST"

5. Target **Take Charge of Education**. Target donates 1% REDcard (sm) Target Visa and Target Card) purchases made at Target and Target.com. Register at http://target.com/target_group/community_giving/take_charge_of_education.jhtml
Enter code: 119746

6. Recycle your printer cartridges and cell phones. Bring them to the recycling bin in the front office. They are collected and recycled at ESCRIP. Last year TJHSST made **\$537.10 !!!**

Student Services Corner

Student Services Advisory Board

The Student Services Advisory Board meets every other month to discuss issues that affect your students at TJ. Parents and students are invited to join us as we talk about everything from schedule changes to college admissions, facility issues to faculty issues. You determine the agenda. Student Services Director, Nina Pitkin, attends the meetings. For information contact karen.oconnor@fcps.edu.

Guidelines

The next issue of the TJHSST Student Services Department newsletter, *Guidelines*, will be available soon at: <http://information.tjhsst.edu/dss/>

SGA

This year the TJ SGA is off to a busy start! In light of the recent disaster, we're organizing a school-wide effort to contribute to relief for Hurricane Katrina. To maximize student involvement, we are encouraging students and clubs to coordinate their own fundraising events, and deposit their profits into an SGA Katrina account. The SGA is in the midst of choosing a recipient charity for the funds. If you have comments or questions about the SGA's Katrina relief efforts, please email our community coordinators: Angela Hobart at laxladyram07@msn.com, and Corinna Pan at HHHHINTL@aol.com. Checks can be mailed to Hurricane Relief c/o TJHSST, and made out to: TJHSST, with a memo for "Hurricane Relief".

The SGA is also busy planning for Homecoming. This year, the overall theme is **Conjunction Junction**, requiring that all class themes contain a conjunction. The class themes are **Mix and Match** (09), **The Young and the Restless** (08), **Green Eggs and Ham** (07), and **Trick or Treat** (06). We hope you can attend the Homecoming football game on Oct 28. Also, we need of parent chaperones for the Homecoming Dance on Oct. 29. If you are able to chaperone, please email one of our activities coordinators, Leslie Hansen, at SparkleGQ101@aol.com, with your name, contact information, and the year of your TJ student.

One of our goals this year is to increase communication on all levels—between the SGA and the different governments and administration, between the SGA and the student body, and between SGA and the TJ community. If you have questions or comments, please email the TJ SGA at tj_sga@hotmail.com (two underscores).

Academic News

The Foreign Language Department

The Foreign Language Department welcomes Alexandra Pou to our department. She is teaching Spanish Levels 1, 2, and 4. ¡Bienvenida!

The Spanish Honor Society is hard at work preparing for our first activity which is our annual Hispanic *Cena*, honoring our students and families of Hispanic heritage. Wednesday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. the dinner takes place in the cafeteria.

The officers have decided since we have a healthy bank account the Society will make a cash contribution to a worthy fund to *ayudar* those in need from the Katrina Disaster.

The Foreign Language Clubs are working hard *juntos* to plan a fundraising activity to also contribute to such an important cause.

Tutoring is an important contribution by Spanish Honor Society *alumnos* to our community and we will be offering tutoring in-house as well as in the larger community.

Activities in the *futuro* are *Día de los Muertos* Celebration for November and put on your calendar, *el 3 de marzo* for our *Bulería*, our Salsa Dance which was a smashing success last year.
¡Hasta Pronto!

Class News

2006 - Seniors

The members of the Class of 2006 are excited to finally be seniors, and to "rule the school"! They are enjoying the opportunity to have the use of the Senior Lounge. The only cloud on the horizon is the thought of writing college essays. They have found a house where to build their Homecoming float, and they are working hard in hopes of having the winning float this year. They have also selected their prom location and date—Westwood Country Club on Friday, June 9th.

And finally, the event we have long awaited! The Class of 2006 will hold its graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 17th, at the Patriot Center. The class has contracted with Balfour for the graduation announcements, gowns and other items. The Class officers and sponsors, Mrs. Little and Mrs. Parnell, have scheduled a Senior Parent Night, on Wednesday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. It is the opportunity for parents to get all their information about how to order graduation items, so it is important that each senior have a parent present. For more details/info, they can contact Mrs. Little at anne.little@fcps.edu or Karen Osborn, at keo1000@cox.net.

2007 – Juniors

Junior year is notorious for its academic burdens; however you can't forget to have fun. Our homecoming theme this year is *Green Eggs and Ham*, and we need your participation to make homecoming amazing.

Parents: The Canned Food drive is often overlooked as a homecoming competition, but it is very important. Send your kids in with as much non-perishable canned food as possible during homecoming week!

Parents: The Spirit Hall committee needs your help! We are looking for art supplies, cardboard boxes, paint, and sheets to be donated. Please contact Shannon Casey (blondeballer003@hotmail.com) or Stephanie Volftsun (stephanie@volftsun.com), the committee co-chairs, if you'd like to donate supplies or help!

Parents and Students: Come help build the Class of 2007 Homecoming Float at Natasha Singh's house! For more information, please contact Lisa Weber (RubyRose95@aol.com), Natasha Singh (singh54@gmail.com), Tammy Lin (little sailboat@gmail.com), or Aaron Perman (aaron12345@gmail.com).

Everyone: This October we will be holding a fundraiser for the victims of Katrina: We will sell Mardi-Gras beads in class colors during homecoming week, with all profits donated to the school-wide hurricane relief fund.

Students: If you want to help with the greatest Musical Ex ever, contact Raillan Brooks (schmuckemluckem.xu@verizon.net) or Kate Kirschner (klk_dancer12@yahoo.com).

Students: Volunteer during 8th period to decorate our class banner! Artists are needed to design the banner and help paint. Sign up in Junior Lounge for email updates.

Stay tuned for more information about our activities. Check our website for more information: <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/2007/>

From the sponsors:

Dear '07 Parents,

We're Juniors!! And, we are excited about Homecoming! Our theme is *Green Eggs and Ham* so we are cooking up lots of good ideas. We meet with our officers every Monday at lunch in room 223. We meet with the Class Council in room 205, Class of '07 Headquarters, on Wednesdays during A-Block. Three other 8th period activity blocks are devoted to Homecoming Planning and Preparation.

Encourage your students to sign up for the Homecoming Planning Blocks open to all Juniors on Wednesdays - B plus Fridays A and/or B. The Homecoming Committee Chairs are convinced they can do a spectacular job but need lots of participation.

YOU can help the kids get ready for Homecoming by:

- chaperoning a float building session at Natasha Singh's house after school or on weekends
- donating raw materials or decorations for the Spirit Hall and Float
- chaperoning the Homecoming Dance

We are delighted to be the sponsors of the Class of '07. If you need to contact us, please stop by our classrooms or send us an email. Carolyn Gecan (Carolyn.Gecan@fcps.edu, room 205) and Betsy Sandstrom (Betsy.Sandstrom@fcps.edu, room 223).

2008 – Sophomores

Class 2008, has a monthly online newsletter that we send to all of our students on the 13th of every month. If any members of the PTSA would be interested in receiving our newsletter we would be happy to send it to them! Also, our website is always

up to date and can be found off of a link from the TJ website. (Go to "Leadership," "Sophomores") Please let us know if you ever need anything.

- THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS are coming out to play! This year's sophomore Homecoming theme is meant to embody the spirit of 2008. We are remembering our journey from womb to TJ and we are having fun in the process.
- The 2008 class Silent Auction will be on Friday, April 28th. We are still seeking parent volunteers to assist with preparations for the fundraiser.

For more information from the class of 2008, please read our newsletter which can be found on our always updated website at <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/2008>. Contact us at [tjhsst08 at gmail.com](mailto:tjhsst08@gmail.com) or our Sponsor Aaron Sacks at [Aaron.Sacks at fcps.edu](mailto:Aaron.Sacks@fcps.edu).

2009 – Freshmen

As the PTSA Liaison for the Class of 2009, my responsibility is to provide support to the class officers and faculty sponsors, Ms. Judy Bello and Ms. Nancy McCormick. We are meeting at press time to get the events and dates for 2009 parents to support. For example, on the near horizon of needs is chaperones for freshman float activities in late October. Later, in the spring, you'll be hearing more about the Freshman Lock-in.

Did you know that there's already a buzz about Freshman parents in the hallowed halls of TJ. We volunteer...*big!* The PTSA has a list of nearly 100 names of parents who will give their time to chaperone events outside of school hours. From the PTSA board to the TJ Marching Colonials Spaghetti Dinner to JLC staffing on Thursday mornings, a freshman parent can be found. Let's keep it up! If you have time, the school has a place for you. Send an email to [ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.volunteers@tjhsst.edu) to find out more.

The Student Directory is still available for \$10. If your information needs to be changed, updated or corrected, please email me at [bessons at cox.net](mailto:bessons@cox.net).

News Round-Up and Awards

Students

- Students **Lisa Marrone** and **Justin Solomon** were awarded top honors at the 2005 Research Science Institute (RSI) held this summer in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Out of 88 projects and papers

submitted by participating high school students, Lisa's work earned an outstanding paper award and Justin's was selected for the highest project/presentation award from among 10 finalists chosen to present before a panel of scientists.

- TJ senior **Sam Gross** won first prize for his presentation of his research project entitled "Emerging Behaviors in Braitenberg-type Robotic Vehicles" at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology SciTech 2005 program where he spent the month of August conducting research with prominent scientists in Haifa, Israel. The students participated in SciTech, a residential science and technology program that allows 11th and 12th graders to conduct hands-on research in topics such as robotics, aerospace science, biomedical engineering, game theory and human behavior, micro-channel heat sink, fluid dynamics, and Ramjet research.

- 10th grade student **Bardya Shirmohammadi** is one of 12 representing the USA Fencing Team at the 2005 Cadet World Fencing Cup in Konin, Poland September 16-18, 2005.

- **Congratulations** to the **167** TJ students who were named **National Merit Semifinalists**.

Alumni

- Class of 2000: **5-Year Reunion** is Friday November 25, at 8p.m. at the Rhodeside Grill in Arlington.
- Class of 1995: **10-Year Reunion** is Friday & Saturday, November 25 & 26, Thanksgiving weekend.
- Class of 1975: **30-Year Reunion** is Saturday October 8 at 7p.m. at Clyde's at Mark Center in Alexandria.

TJHSST Partnership Fund

First Alumni Named Fund – "The Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason Fund for Excellence in Drama, Foreign Language and Humanities"

TJ Alumni Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason (Class of 95) and co-authors of the best seller Rule of Four, have made an ongoing annual major gift commitment of \$10,000 to advance excellence in Drama, Foreign Language and Humanities at TJ. Caldwell added, "We would like all of the money each year to fund a single project... The spirit of the gift fund is to encourage teachers to think big." Caldwell's and Thomason's Named Fund will support an annual faculty-led special initiative at TJ.

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(Cont. from Partnership Fund)

There's still time to participate in the Back to School Campaign!

The good news at press time for Tech Cetera is that more than \$12,000 has been donated by 64 TJ parents. The hopeful news is that there are 1,674 families that have yet to make their gift!

Thanks to all who've contributed to the **Back to School Campaign** so far. There's still time to contribute. If you've misplaced your donation form, you can download a pledge form from the Jefferson Partnership Fund's new website at www.tjpartnershipfund.org or make a credit card donation online.

United Way – CFC Parent Donors

Special thanks to those parents who will support the Jefferson Partnership Fund again this year through United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), please remember the Partnership Fund's new **Agency Designation number 8208**. Every gift makes a difference at TJ!

Special Donor Education Workshop

"Tax Advantages of Charitable Gifting" on Tuesday, October 4, 2005, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. TJ Lecture Hall

TJ '08 parent **Fred Baerenz** and local attorney at law **Weston Burnett** will present a complimentary two-hour seminar on **"Tax Advantages of Charitable Gifting"** for current and alumni parents. The program will open with an informal briefing by TJ principal Elizabeth Lodal and offer invaluable information on annual giving, charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts – and will highlight benefits for both the donor – and their recipient charity.

For information and registration, contact Karen Duke, kpduke@fcps.edu or call 703.750.8316

TJHSST Boosters

Academic Boosters

TJHSST's Academic Boosters supports TJHSST's Academic Team, Chess Team, Computer Team, Debate Team, Future Problem Solvers, *Certamen*, Japan Bowl, Chemistry and Biology Olympiad Teams, Mathematics Team, Model United Nations, Odyssey of the Mind, Ocean Bowl Team, and Physics

Team. Aided by indefatigable faculty advisors, these teams are amazingly successful. Last year:

- **Science Team** won the National Science Bowl for the 4th consecutive year. **Chess Team** members won the Virginia State Scholastic Tournament, and at the Super Slow Chess Nationals -- held every four years and attracting 5,000 participants -- a team member was tournament co-champion and TJ's first team came in fifth overall. **Academic Team** won the Virginia State Championship and for the 8th time in a row won the international Knowledge Master Open. **Computer Team** members (3) were among just 14 participants at the USA Invitational Computer Olympiad. **Math Team** Varsity had 11 qualifiers at the USA Math Olympiad (more than any other school in the country), and won the Virginia Math League Competition and Duke Math Meet. **Physics Team** 5 students qualified for U.S. Olympiad Training Camp and one participated on the U.S. Traveling Team, which competed internationally this past summer.

Support these activities by joining Academic Boosters and attending our meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the TJ Career Center. Check the Academic Boosters website: <http://www.tjhsstacademicboosters.org/> or contact this year's president, Andrea Field at afield@huntington.com.

Athletic Boosters

The fall sports teams are off to a fantastic start. **Varsity football** is picking up where they left off last year. They are currently 2-0, having won their first two games against Falls Church and Langley. Their success was featured in a lead article in The Washington Post Sports section that highlighted Matt Wong. The article said "Jefferson is considered a top contender in its new home, the Liberty District."

The TJ **golf team** led by co-captains Brian Chon ('06) and Robert Kalb ('07) finished District matches with a final victory over Woodson last week. The team finished the regular season with a 6-1 record. The one loss was to Madison, who finished with an identical 6-1 record. They play in the District Championship on the 20th and 21st of Sept. at Reston National Golf Club and are expected to advance to Regionals the following week.

As of September 19th, the **boys' varsity cross country team** was ranked #1 in the southeast region of the United States. Nike sponsors a post-season national team championship, and the top two teams at the end of the season from each of the eight regions throughout the country are invited to compete. The **boys varsity and JV teams** opened with a win at the Monroe Parker Invitational. The following weekend in Delaware, the girls added their own first-place hardware, joining the varsity and JV boys as Lake Forest Invitational champs.

After having played seven matches in the 2005 season, the **JV volleyball team** has 4 wins. The Colonials are playing very well under the able leadership of Coach Gina Rhee and captains Emily Jacobson and Megan Stapleton. They expect to grow stronger through the season as the group of 4 juniors, 3 sophomores, and 5 freshmen gels as a team. For more details on these teams and more, visit our website at sports.tjhsst.edu/boosters.

Please remember to support our student athletes by becoming a member of the athletic boosters. The boosters supplement the athletic director's bare-bones budget and provide vital funding for repairing, replacing, and acquiring essential equipment and facilities. **We need you to join the Boosters and help us continue funding our athletic programs.** We also need your time. We have many opportunities for volunteers, some that only require a minimal investment of time. We are in desperate need of a vice-president and a merchandise chair. Merchandise is a major source of revenue for the boosters and students love to show their school spirit with Jefferson apparel. If you are interested, please contact Barb Sando at sando.bh@pg.com. Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, October 5th at 7:00 in the Library.

Crew Boosters

Crew will be holding two open houses at the boathouse at Sandy Run Regional Park on Sunday, Oct 2 and Saturday, Oct 8 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. You will have the opportunity to see the equipment, have your questions answered by current rowers and coaches and, weather permitting, a chance to get out on the water.

The Crew interest meeting for all students considering rowing and their parents will be held on Tuesday, Oct 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the TJ cafeteria. Current team captains, coaches, booster board members and fund raising chairs will tell you about our internationally recognized program. We'll detail

membership requirements and fees along with practice schedules and training requirements, answering any questions you may have.

Even though the Crew competitive rowing season does not begin until March, returning rowers and parents are busy now making preparations. Crew is a varsity sport that has not yet been adopted by the Virginia High School League, which means that 100% of the Crew's funding comes from membership dues and fund raising activities. We are currently running several fund-raisers that will conclude in October, including the sale of entertainment books, Sally Foster gift wrap and smoked turkeys. For additional information on these, please visit our web site at <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/crew/>. We sincerely appreciate your support!

If you have any questions, contact Head Coach Matt Shoop at shoop2@cox.net. For Booster questions or to be added to the team/parent e-mail list, contact Mark Peterson, President, at markpusafb@gmail.com.

Choral Boosters

The TJ Choir is off to a great start this year, having completed both the choir boot camp and picnic prior to the start of school. The best part of all was the chance to sing for the 60th anniversary of the ending of WWII at the National World War II Memorial before school even began. This prestigious event was attended by numerous WW II veterans, and Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld was the keynote speaker. Our choir, under the outstanding direction of Luke Frels, shared the stage with the US Navy Sea Chanter Chorus and the USO Liberty Belles.

The chorus is practicing earnestly for their showcase concert on October 18th. After this performance the silent auction and cabaret, showcasing ensemble and individual vocal talents is right around the corner in November. Stay "tuned" for further details!

Band Boosters

The TJ Band Boosters are currently selling the 2005 White House Ornament. You may purchase at TJHSST events: Back-to-School Night, Citrus Sale, Band Concerts, etc. If you have questions or wish to place an order, please contact Sharon Walch at 703-497-2155 or email her at walchmsh@comcast.net (*please* put White House or TJMB in the subject line).

In late August, TJ's Marching Colonials' 3-week band camp was punctuated by a week away at Shrine Mont in Orkney Springs, VA. This intense, but enjoyable, training and team-building was made possible with the help of many dedicated volunteers who assisted Ms. Ulrey and her knowledgeable staff. Many thanks to all of you!

"Marching season" includes not only football games, but competitions, and, of course, fund raisers. Many students participate in curricular bands, and for some, "concert season" begins in mid-October. Please support our various band programs by enjoying any, or all, of the following activities:

Marching Competitions:

October 1 - Oakton Classic

October 22 - James Madison University

October 15 or November 5 - Location TBD

Concerts: October 18 - 7 pm - Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Jazz I

Fund Raisers:

TJ License Plate Frame - \$12 - You Need Two per Car! - [jfhurl at yahoo.com](mailto:jfhurl@yahoo.com)

Citrus Sales - A TJ Tradition - [tjcitrus at hotmail.com](mailto:tjcitrus@hotmail.com)

White House Ornament - \$18 - Ideal Gift - [walchmohs at comcast.net](mailto:walchmohs@comcast.net)

Holiday Greens - Last All Season - [sherwoodfam at yahoo.com](mailto:sherwoodfam@yahoo.com) Orders due 10/8.

Kid Stuff Coupon Books - \$25 - Spend to Save! - Contact a Band Member

Scrip - Gift Cards - Gap, Borders, Giant, etc. - [pllee10 at aol.com](mailto:pllee10@aol.com)

Charitable Donations - TJHSST Band Boosters, Inc. - Mail to Band Boosters c/o Director of Bands, TJHSST.

Theater Boosters

The curtain is rising on another great year of theater at TJ. Students and directors have an exciting line up! We encourage students, staff and parents to join us for these outstanding performances by some of the best local actors with innovative and exciting staging by our talented crews.

Break a leg to the cast and crew of the Virginia Theater Association competition in Reston at the end of October!

Performances

Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Jazz I October 18th, 7:00 p.m.

Knight of the One Axe, Nov. 17, 18, & 19 at 7:30 p.m.

The School of Scandal, Feb. 24, 25; March 3, 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Spring Show, April 20, 21, at 7:30 p.m., and 22 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Frosh Fest (featuring freshmen):

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.;

Nov. 11, 8th period and at 7:30 p.m.

Winter Show: *Much Ado About Nothing* Jan. 19, 20, 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Spring Show: *Anthony and Cleopatra*, May 18, 19, 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Announcements and Information

The All Night Grad party

The All Night Grad party will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2005 after the Graduation Ceremony. Over 600 parent volunteers will be required to help with this event. The **bad news**: there is a lot of work to be done. The **good news**: it's fun work and there's plenty of time to get it all done before June. MOMS AND DADS OF 2006 GRADS: Your involvement is crucial. NON-SENIOR PARENTS: We need you, too - on any committee, but especially to help set up while senior parents attend graduation and to help with wrap-up after the party. There is a role for everyone, no matter what size or time commitment - and we particularly need skills to help with the treasury, decorations, and publicity.

Need more information?

- Check the ANGP link on the TJ website (soon to be updated)
- Attend any of our meetings, third Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm
- E-mail the Chairman, Joanne Rehm ([ANGP06 at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ANGP06@tjhsst.edu))
- Call Joanne at 703-425-9299

Thanks for your support. Let's make this a great party for our kids' last blast at TJ.

Reflections

Students interested in participating in the **I Wonder Why....** Reflections program, are urged to contact Smita Trivedi at [DivyangT2 at aol.com](mailto:DivyangT2@aol.com).

Holiday Greens and Poinsettias

TJ families - there is still time to get your order in for Holiday Greens and Poinsettias! Poinsettias will be delivered to TJ and greenery will be shipped directly to you or your recipient by early December. For more information ask any Band student, pick up a flyer in the Band Hall or contact Sarah Sherwood (703-249-0999 or [sherwoodfam at yahoo.com](mailto:sherwoodfam@yahoo.com)).

Hockey for Katrina

On Sunday, September 11th, eleven members of T-J's field hockey team participated in a bake sale to raise money for hurricane victims. They set up shop outside Giant in the North Point shopping center in Reston. Using their wonderful charm and beautiful smiles, the girls raised \$1,476 in four hours. Special thanks to Bobbie Pelham-Webb who helped organize the fundraiser. Well done!



Robotics for Elementary, Middle and High School Students

Does your child enjoy math, building things, or computer programming? Would he or she like to try building a robot with a team of friends? If so, come hear representatives from FIRST Lego League (elementary and middle school students) and Botball (middle and high school students) on Tuesday, November 15th, 7:30 p.m. These representatives, plus students and parent coaches from last year's competitions, will talk about the two programs and answer questions about how they organized their teams. The meeting is located at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean 22101. It is free and open to the general public, and is sponsored by the Fairfax County Association for the Gifted. For more information, call FCAG at 703-917-7960.

The Class of 2008 Needs You!

Donations are needed for Silent Auction 2006, THE biggest fundraiser for the sophomore class. This year's theme is "World Market" and should be a wonderful event. **Parent donations** make up a large part of the total sales and are usually some of our biggest sellers. Even if your student is not a part of the class of 2008, we'd love to have your help.

Some examples of donations include furniture (such as a couch), electronics, tickets (to sporting events and to shows), CDs and DVDs, Jewelry, SAT prep courses or other enrichment courses, musical instruments, souvenirs from travels, special or business services (such as lawn mowing), gift certificates, memberships (such as to country clubs), collections (such as coins and stamps), game tables, dinners, artwork (such as your own), celebrity memorabilia, and vacations and vacation home rentals or timeshares.

The Silent Auction is coming soon and your donations will be greatly appreciated! If you are interested in helping us out by donating, please contact our donations chairs, Cindy Wei (703-318-0416) or David Dy Tang (703-532-5221), or e-mail us at [2008donations at gmail.com](mailto:2008donations@gmail.com). Thanks!

TWIST

Five years ago, Jefferson students founded Tomorrow's Women in Science and Technology (TWIST) to encourage female TJ students to sign up for senior tech labs that historically attracted few girls. Subsequently, TWIST organized events to encourage more girls at TJ to pursue careers in math, science and technology. TWIST soon became involved on a county-level by organizing programs for younger girls and volunteering at community events such as National Engineer's Week. TWIST members are also paired with mentors in nearby math, science, and/or technology corporations (e.g., SAIC), who answer questions about career options in their fields.

TWIST is looking for more student members to help organize and staff its many programs this year. This spring, TWIST will organize Froshop, which allows freshmen to tour the senior tech labs. Throughout the year, TWIST will host a speaker series featuring women professionals sharing their experiences in math, science, or technology careers with interested TJ students. To encourage younger girls to pursue math, science and technology, TWIST organizes an annual **Techstravaganza** for elementary and middle school students. TWIST members also

participate in monthly "TWIST Jr." hands-on science activities with middle school girls.

TJ students who are interested in joining TWIST should email the TWIST coordinators at [twistcoordinators at hotmail.com](mailto:twistcoordinators@hotmail.com).

TJ Jacket!

If you missed the first Jefferson Letter Jacket sale at Back to School, do not worry. There will be one last sale November 29 – Dec 1 in the cafeteria during lunch. The jackets will be delivered in February. This will be the last chance to get your Official Letter TJ Jacket! Students must try a jacket on before ordering, so we will have sample jackets for you to try on.

At TJ you are the only Fairfax County school allowed to wear a letter jacket **WITHOUT the letter!** Being selected to attend TJ is an accomplishment worthy of celebrating!! Plus, it is a fundraiser and they are being offered to Faculty and Staff at our cost.



The order form and more information are available on the PTSA web site. If you have questions about the jackets or would like to help out, please contact Marilyn Mutchler at (703) 690-3429 or at [vamutchler at aol.com](mailto:vamutchler@aol.com).

Jefferson Letter Jackets sold very well during our September sale. Thanks to everyone who helped make sure the students ordered the right size! A big thank you to Rachel Miller, Matthew Hoel, and Betty Luo for letting me show off their jackets. Thank you to Jean Dodge, Tracy Yuri, Soonok Kim, Ilene Swartz, Michelle Shepard, Ellen Street, Rite Anderson, Susan Cameron and Kelli Radcliffe for making sure everyone ordered to correct size!



Marching Colonials

The 2005 Marching Colonials will hold their annual Band Banquet in the TJHSST cafeteria on Wednesday, November 16. The dinner buffet, which is provided by Red, Hot & Blue Catering, will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature pulled Bar-B-Q chicken sandwiches, baked beans, salads, and homemade desserts. Vegetarian alternatives will also be available. Dinner will be followed by an awards and recognition program that features the awarding of marching band letters and pins.

Family members of marching band and color guard students are invited and encouraged to attend this event. The cost is \$9 per person (children 5 and younger are free). A reservations form will be mailed to your home by the first week of October and will be available at band practices. All reservations need to be received by Wednesday, November 9. Both parent and student volunteers will be needed at the banquet and volunteer information will be included with the reservations form.

For more information, contact the Band Banquet co-chairs Ann Besson, [bessons at cox.net](mailto:bessons@cox.net), or Carin Gendell, [gendellc at aol.com](mailto:gendellc@aol.com).

Back To School Message from Kaye Kory

To The Parents of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology:
Even though I could not greet you in person at Thomas Jefferson High School's Back to School Night, I appreciate this opportunity to welcome you to this new school year.

Our children are our most valuable resource, and I thank you for trusting the talented and dedicated staff at TJHSST. Please join our PTSA, become involved in your children's education, and form a working partnership with the teachers. As a parent and a former PTA president, I have great respect for the impact an active PTA can have on a school community. I look forward to working closely with Mrs. Lodal, principal, and your PTSA leadership in this academic year.

Please contact me at [kaye.kory at fcps.edu](mailto:kaye.kory@fcps.edu) or 703-246-4549 with questions, comments, or suggestions. Best wishes to you and your children for a successful 2005-2006 school year.

Sincerely, Kaye Kory
Mason District, School Board

School closings in PWCS

In case of inclement weather and the Prince Williams County Schools close, but Fairfax remains open, we will have to scramble at the last minute to find a way to get students to TJ. In anticipation of such an occurrence, we are preparing a snow-emergency carpool list. If interested, please send an email to Nassmah.Brooks_at_verizon.net with the name of the HS your child departs from. The idea is to cluster the Woodbridge and Stonewall students in the most convenient location for departure. Fauquier County students are welcome to join the PWC crowd. Keep in mind, if PWCS are closed and TJ is open, the kids can stay home, it is an excused absence.

FCCC Council urges preparedness

The Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council [<http://www.fairfaxcountycitizencorps.org/>] urges all residents to be prepared in advance of an emergency by making or purchasing a Home Emergency Supply Kit that can sustain each resident with food, water, first aid supplies and other essentials for a minimum of three days. This is the basic list:

Basic Home Emergency Supply Kit

- Food (enough for 3 days) [Ready to eat canned meats, fruits, & vegetables, Protein or fruit bars, Dry cereal or granola, Peanut Butter, Dried fruit, Nuts, Crackers, Canned juices, Vitamins, Food for infants, Comfort/ Stress Foods]
- One gallon of water per person per day
- Pack a manual can opener and eating utensils
- Prescriptions/ Medications
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight
- Battery powered radio
- Batteries
- Blankets/ Bedding
- Personal Hygiene item
- Extra seasonal clothes
- Pen and paper
- Extra set of keys
- Cash
- Cell phone
- Contact list
- Copies of Family Documents
- Copies of Financial Documents
- Infant Supplies
- Pet Supplies
- Small Face Mask
- Tools/ Duct Tape
- Garbage/ Storage Bags
- Map

Noteworthy Dates

October

- 8 SAT I and II Testing
- 10 Columbus Day Holiday
- 11 CAC Coordinating Group (7:30, Career Center)
- 11 Diversity Committee Meeting (7:30, Library)
- 12 PSAT Testing (Wednesday a.m.)
- 17 PTSA Meeting (7:30, TJ Library)
- 18 ANGP Committee Meeting (7:00, Career Center)
- 18 Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Jazz I (7:00)
- 18 Crew Interest Meeting (7:30, Cafeteria)
- 19 Newsletter submissions due for next issue
- 21 A Midsummer Night's Dream (8th period & 7:30)
- 26 PTSA FORUM (7:00, Auditorium)
- 28 Homecoming Football Game
- 29 Homecoming Dance

November

- 7 to 8 Student Holidays
- 10 Principal's Coffee (9:30 - Cafeteria)
- 12 Diversity Committee Meeting (11:00 - Room239)
- 14 PTSA Executive Board Meeting (7:30 - Library)
- 15 ANGP Committee Meeting (7:00 - Career Center)
- 17 Knight of One Axe (7:30)
- 18 Knight of One Axe (7:30)
- 19 Knight of One Axe (7:30)
- 19 Newsletter submissions due for next issue
- 23 Students Released Two Hours Early
- 24 to 25 Thanksgiving Holidays



**THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
COLONIAL ATHLETIC BOOSTERS
2005- 2006 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Home telephone: E-mail _____

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name(s): Sport(s): Class of:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Check one category:

_____ CORPORATE \$500

SIX Passes to **ALL regular season HOME** games and reserved parking for home football games

_____ DIAMOND \$250

FOUR Passes to **ALL regular season HOME** games and reserved parking for home football games

_____ GOLD \$150 **TWO** Passes to **ALL Regular Season HOME** games

_____ SILVER \$100 **ONE** Pass to **ALL Regular Season HOME** games

_____ BASIC \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$30 _____

_____ ALUMNI \$25 x _____

LIFETIME passes, charge per person, Alumni and/or parent(s)
Not available to PARENTS with a child still at TJ

Remember, our passes are good for Regular Season HOME Games for sports all year. - **Join now and enjoy free admission fall-winter and spring!**

Please make your check payable to **Colonial Athletic Boosters** and return with this form to:
TJHSST Colonial Athletic Boosters, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria VA 22312