

## Principal's Letter

At TJ, we focus our primary energy on the education of our students but are also constantly mindful of the learning and development of staff and parents so they can help TJ in new ways. This past semester, Rusty Hodges has been learning much about administration through his internship. This month's column is dedicated to Mr. Hodges for his effort working behind the scenes to make TJ a successful place for learning and growing. I want to thank him for what he has done beyond the call of duty, often staying late into the night to serve our community with patience, friendliness, and fair-mindedness.

Have a terrific, restful holiday season!

Yours truly,

Evan Glazer  
Principal

Dear parents/guardians, teachers, and students,

I would like to take this opportunity to share my experiences as I move closer to the completion of my Administrative Internship and Program of Studies at the University of Virginia. Currently, Dr. Glazer and Interim Director of Student Activities Dale Rumberger are mentoring me as I move into the final phase of obtaining my administrative endorsement. My internship classes have forced me to make some considerable sacrifices in addressing time management – addressing my family's needs first, and then devoting the rest of my time to my coursework and added responsibilities in working with Student Activities. If there is any time left over, I devote it to physical activity. Similar to the life of the TJ senior who is already writing college essays, balancing coursework and being involved with extra-curricular activities, I discovered that I

must make decisions and set my priorities knowing that "I cannot do it all." I realize that when I try to do everything perfectly, I start neglecting other important aspects of my personal life.

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to be involved in making some of the decisions that affect our entire school community. Evaluating grade weighting options for the 2010-2011 school year, and serving on the TJ renovation team, have been extremely helpful in understanding the impact that school-wide initiatives have on our school community. Being involved in these initiatives has really enriched my administrative intern experience. Taking on the role as administrator has taken much energy and perseverance in dealing with the responsibilities placed on me. I quickly realized that this is not only due to our demanding academic environment, but is also due to addressing the needs of our students who are positively connected with all aspects of life here at TJ. They seem to thrive in this environment and consistently challenge themselves.

As we move into the holiday season we have an excellent opportunity to refocus our energy away from our academic environment and spend some quality time with family and friends. I plan on spending time at home with my family, watching football, and enjoying some down time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank teachers, faculty, staff, students, and parents for all their time, energy and devotion to the TJ community. Our accomplishments reflect the hard work and dedication that you all have contributed to all TJ's ongoing success.

Sincerely,

Rusty Hodges  
Assistant Director of Student Activities  
TJ Administrative Intern

## President's Message

Happy Holidays! It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is over and we are heading into the holiday season – in just a few short weeks, it will be Winter Break.

Our PTSA meeting this month started with a Principal's Coffee devoted to the Honors Weighting issue. During the Principal's Coffee, Dr. Glazer led a spirited discussion of the options now available to our community. The school is currently conducting a survey of parents, students, and faculty opinions. Please respond to the request and make your voice heard. A decision by the County is expected in late January in time for course sign-up for next year. The budget also remains a major concern for TJ. Fairfax County Public Schools are facing approximately \$176 million dollars in cuts to balance the FY2011 budget. The outlook for all schools is grim with large cuts expected. At TJ, loss of faculty, staff, and programs and increased class size seem inevitable. In addition, the current budget discussions include charging for AP testing, implementing an activity fee, and eliminating two or more sports. We will continue to monitor the effect of the County budget issues on TJ, focusing on issues specifically relating to TJ. Following these discussions and plans carefully will help us be strong advocates for our kids and our school. Please contact your County supervisor and school board member, and make your feelings known.

The PTSA is collecting donations for hand sanitizers (Purell, etc.) for use in high traffic areas around the school. Please note that this effort is not because of any unusual increase in sickness at the school.

On the contrary, this is a precautionary effort by the parents for a short term during the upcoming high-risk months. The PTSA will be accepting donations of hand sanitizers or cash to use to purchase sanitizers. Cash donations can be sent to the front office (labeled for PTSA). Checks should be made payable to TJ PTSA with a notation "Hand Sanitizer" in the memo line. There will also be a box in the front office to collect actual product donations. If possible, please send the large pump bottles, as these are the easiest size for the school to use. We will be collecting until December 23.



November was another event-filled month for the PTSA. We celebrated the success of our students with several important events, including receptions for the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony and the National Merit Semi-Finalist Program, and assistance with the Academic Letter Awards. Special thanks to Keiko Fujui and all the members of the Hospitality Committee who provided volunteers and donations for these receptions. The hospitality group has had a spectacular marathon month in covering these events in addition to our normal PTSA meeting and Senior Night.

Congratulations to Lynne Hamrick, one of our TJ parents, who won the Wall Street Journal's Education Challenge contest by submitting a paragraph about how the US needs to improve its STEM education. TJ will receive \$5,000 for Lynne's victory (in addition to \$1,000 from finalist David Hamrick, Lynne's husband). Thank you to all who voted for Lynne.

**LOST AND FOUND** – Please remember to check the boxes of lost and found items opposite the security office before the holidays. Items are generally displayed on tables leading up to the holidays and then are donated if not claimed.

**HOLIDAY ABSENCES** – Please remember to call in advance, or provide for arranged absences for your students, if they will miss class time during the holidays.

**PTSA POSITIONS** – We are looking for parent volunteers for three important PTSA positions. Please consider joining the team in these capacities.

(1) **Science Fair Hospitality** - volunteer who would be willing to assist with the purchasing and logistics of food during the TJ science fair in February

(2) **Eighth Period Office** – at-home volunteer who would help the 8<sup>th</sup> period office with securing permission for TV and movie viewing. Hours are flexible and the work is done from home.

(3) **PTSA Webmaster** - The PTSA webmaster "graduated" in June. We need a volunteer to take over maintenance of the PTSA website. The position involves XHTML, CSS, FTP or WinSCP, Dreamweaver, making PDFs, monitoring the

webmaster email address, etc. A pro-active approach is preferred. Availability in the summer is a must. Minimal JavaScript is helpful, but not necessary. We prefer that a TJ parent handle this job. If you have any questions, please contact our "retired" Webmaster at [ptsa.webmaster at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.webmaster@tjhsst.edu).

As always, if you have questions, concerns or just want to chat, do not hesitate to contact me or any of the PTSA officers.

~~Carrie Kilgore  
TJ PTSA President  
[ptsa.president at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.president@tjhsst.edu)

## Serving the TJ Community

### Free Money

**WOW!** TJ families do it again! We surpassed last year's **loyalty card registrations** for all stores, and the monthly number of items bought using our Amazon affiliate link continues to trend upwards. Our efforts are paying off! **As of November, we earned over \$7,000 of free money this fiscal year!**

**Psst....pass it on!**

**Get Great Prices and  
Earn \$\$\$ for TJ as you shop**

Set a bookmark to use every time you shop at Amazon.com and earn money for TJ! Use <http://www.amazon.com/?tag=tjhsst-20>.



We earn about 7% profit on most purchases! To **double** your contribution, buy and use Amazon.com gift cards. We earn 6% when you buy them, and another 7% when the recipient uses our link to spend them! You can even

use gift cards bought from booster clubs at our link.

For a purchase to be eligible, you must

- (1) **click-through our special link,**
- (2) **add the item to your shopping cart, AND**
- (3) **pay for items in your cart within 24 hours.**

Use your wish list, instead of the shopping cart, as a way to save items for a later order since **we lose credit for items that sit in your cart longer than 24 hours.** We also will not get credit if you access Amazon through a different link before completing your order.

Free Money Questions? Contact Nora Callahan at [NoraVA at verizon.net](mailto:NoraVA@verizon.net).

## Volunteers

### Hospitality Committee

We would like to thank the TJ National Honor Society and the Student Services Department for giving us two wonderful opportunities to serve the TJ community. The Hospitality Committee hosted a National Honor Society Induction Reception on November 5 and the National Merit Semifinalists Reception on November 13. We could not have hosted these two big events without the tremendous contributions of food and time from parents. We also provided breakfast for the first Principal's Coffee on November 18 and were able to help the cafeteria staff serve lunch on November 19. We wish the entire TJ community a nice and safe holiday season.



Hospitality volunteers inflate balloons for the National Honor Society reception

### Landscape Committee

We had a wonderfully productive month in November despite gusty winds and rainy weekends. Our two November weekend efforts to reduce the mulch pile and get the garden beds ready for winter were a great success, thanks in large part to the mothers of the Class of 2013. Many thanks to Yun

Pang, Nancy Vollbrecht, Jaekyung Lee, Hyun Hee Hong, Cindy Stalcup, **Brad Stalcup** (2011), and Carol Miranda for their heroic efforts. We've pruned the native hawthorn trees, planted a number of new plants on the native hill and in the Aud Lob courtyard, and reduced the mulch pile by half!



This winter watch for the blossoms on our Virginia Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) in the Aud Lob courtyard, and the lovely scarlet foliage of the of the Little Henry Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) on the native hill. Come spring, watch for daffodils and Virginia Bluebells near the front entrance, and for announcements of our spring garden workdays in Tech cetera.

### *Curriculum Advisory Committee*

#### **Explore the Potential for an End of School Year Mini-Semester Starting in Spring of 2011**

On Monday, December 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., there will be a meeting in the College Career Center room at TJ. This is part of a continuing dialogue to discuss the potential of having a Mini-semester at TJ at the end of the school year. Parents are welcome to attend, and interested teachers and students are also invited to participate.

If TJ were to have a Mini-Semester, our school year would end at the same time, but regular TJ courses would finish just before the Mini-semester starts. At this December meeting, we could discuss the opportunities and limitations of having a Mini-semester.

Some examples of what students might do during a Mini-semester include: 1) research, 2) participate in foreign language trip overseas, 3) participate in other field trips developing critical inquiry or exploration skills, 4) take a course for non-credit or perhaps for credit (if there are courses for credit, the Mini-semester would need to be at least 12 school days), and 5) participate in Engineers Without Borders.

The Mini-semester would need to be cost neutral, especially considering the difficult budget environment.

### ***All Night Graduation Party (ANGP)***



<http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/info.html>  
(Also in Korean on the website)

**ANGP 2010 is TJ's alcohol-free, drug-free, all-night celebration and is sponsored by the TJ Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA).**

**SENIOR NIGHT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!  
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO BOUGHT  
TICKETS, MADE DONATIONS, PURCHASED  
YARD SIGNS, AND VOLUNTEERED FOR THE  
ANGP AT SENIOR NIGHT!**

#### **BUY TICKETS X-peditiously!**

There are 442 Seniors, and 240 tickets have been sold! That is **X**-traordinary! Over 54% of our Seniors have tickets, but the goal is 100%! Tickets cost \$90 now, and, on January 1, 2010, the price goes up to \$110.

## SEND BABY PHOTOS!



To purchase ANGP tickets, download the Ticket/Acknowledgment of Risk form at: <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/tickets.html> and drop the form and a check in the ANGP Ticket box in the TJ front office, or send both in to the address on the form. Check "The List" to confirm purchase. *Our goal is 100% attendance. Scholarships for tickets are available if needed. Please see your child's guidance counselor.*

<http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/babyphotos.html>

## DONATE X-traordinarily!

## Student Services Corner

Honor your Senior with a donation and a dedication! An X-traordinary All Night Grad Party requires X-tra funding above the price of tickets.

### Guidelines

Funds are needed NOW to sign contracts and receive the best prices for next year. Your donation helps! Please see if your company will match your *tax deductible* donation.

The latest issue of the TJHSST Student Services Department newsletter, *Guidelines*, is available at: <http://www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/dss/pubs.php>.

### DONATE BY CHECK:

### Student Government Association

Please make checks payable to **TJHSST ANGP**, attach the form  
([http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/documents/donation\\_form2010.pdf](http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/documents/donation_form2010.pdf))  
and send to:

Hey TJ, One more month to go until 2010!

PTSA-2010 ANGP at TJHSST  
6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22312

We are going to have another soc hop on December 11, hosted by the senior class. This dance's theme is "Rob the Cradle," so upperclassmen, bring your underclass date and have a good time because this is the last dance of 2009.

### DONATE BY CREDIT CARD:

Make credit card donations via the  
**TJ PTSA payments page at**

<http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/payments.htm>

Congratulations to the new freshman officers, elected last month! Good luck in leading your class this year. Freshman parents, start thinking about getting involved in the class's upcoming events.

## VOLUNTEER X-uberantly !

This party is an enormous undertaking, REQUIRING 400+ volunteers. ALL parents of Seniors are needed to help chaperone, decorate and prepare for ANGP. Sign up using this form: <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/volunteer.html>

SGA has successfully completed the Winter Clothing Drive. The Salvation Army enjoyed a large donation of winter apparel from TJ students. Thank you for your contributions!



### BUY YARD SIGNS!

Only \$20 each!

Available with TJ Orb, or TJ Colonials emblem.

The order form is posted:

We are currently working on a couple of projects for the spring. One project is TJ Olympics. We have already formed a planning committee and are coordinating with the language departments so we can have another successful and fun TJ Olympics! A second project in the works is Service Week, a week for TJ clubs and students to participate in activities to raise money for charities and demonstrate how the TJ community is giving back. We are ironing out the details, and the exact dates of these events will be known soon.

Enjoy the Holidays! Go, Jefferson!

[http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/documents/TJ\\_Grad\\_Lawn\\_Sign\\_Order\\_Form.pdf](http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/documents/TJ_Grad_Lawn_Sign_Order_Form.pdf)

## Academic News

### French News

#### Les Nouvelles du programme de Français à TJ

The TJ French Honor Society recently celebrated National French Week. The officers and society members treated the faculty to a “*Petit Déjeuner*,” complete with croissants and crêpes. Several treasure hunts took place during the week, and a display of recent French Scientists and Nobel prizes was set in the library showcase.

The French Honor Society, under the leadership of co-presidents **Mohima Sanyal** and **Anna Nikolova**, is planning a great variety of cultural events for the upcoming year. Members will have the opportunity to explore many facets of the francophone culture, past and present.

### German News

**Fun with German:** Many TJ students joined the German Honor Society in late October to celebrate Oktoberfest. Students enjoyed eating Bratwurst, learning about the German holiday, and learning a German folk dance.



Oktoberfest Dancing

The German Honor Society celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall with several events. On Monday, November 9, German students made a wall of bricks (really brownies). During lunch, students were invited to remove a brownie/brick from the wall by correctly pronouncing the German word for reunification (Wiedervereinigung). On that Wednesday, students viewed an Oscar-winning movie about life in East Germany.



Mendel Chen, Kelly Schumann, Krissy Brant, and Kelsey Dressing, officers of the German Honor Society, with Berlin Wall brownies

### Spanish News

The National Spanish Honor Society began the 2009-2010 school year with lots of Latin rhythm and flavor. “El Mes de la hispanidad,” was celebrated by honoring the Hispanic community here at TJ. Personal invitations to a special dinner and show on October 22 in the cafeteria were sent to families and employees of the TJ community. The food was abundant and delicious but the piece de resistance was the singing and dancing, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Current projects of the organization include peer tutoring for TJ world language students and the exploration of foreign study and volunteer opportunities, through presentations by TJ students who have completed such projects.

## Class News

### 2010 – Seniors

For those who missed Senior Parent Night, I will cover the key points here. Please remember to check this column and the ANGP website (<http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/index.html>) throughout the year for more information.

1. Graduation will be held on Saturday, June 19, at 7:30 pm in the George Mason Patriot Center. No tickets are necessary.
2. Prom will be held on Friday, June 11, at Westwood Country Club in Vienna. Tickets are

free to seniors (covered by the money raised by the Class of 2010 over the past four years).

3. Senior dues are \$30, check made payable to TJHSST. Please put "Class of 2010 senior dues" in the memo line and send the check to school (to the attention of Ms. Amanda Hurowitz, Class of 2010 faculty sponsor). Dues cover the cost of cap and gown and other graduation-related items.
4. The All Night Grad Party (ANGP) immediately follows graduation. Buy your ANGP ticket now before prices go up from \$90 to \$110 on January 1. Download the ANGP ticket form at: <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/documents/ticketform2010.pdf>. Mail your completed form and check to the address on the form, or drop it off in the office.
5. We are expecting every senior family to help volunteer for the ANGP as we need 400 volunteers. If you cannot help the day of the party, there are ways to help out before. Please see the volunteer sign up at: <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/volunteer.html>
6. Ticket Sales alone do not cover the cost of the ANGP. We need your donations! Go to (<http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/donations.html>)! Or purchase a Graduation Lawn Sign. All proceeds go to the ANGP. <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/index.html>.
7. Read the ANGP webpage on baby photos <http://information.tjhsst.edu/gradparty/babyphotos.html> and send in your student's photo.
8. Your student should have received a packet from Balfour in school. If you would like to purchase graduation announcements or other items, you should return the order directly to Balfour by mail. If you have questions or need another form, contact Balfour directly at (703) 941-1436 or [balfournova at yahoo.com](mailto:balfournova@yahoo.com).

Please contact me if you have any questions. I hope that your college applications will be behind you and that you and your family will have time to relax for a wonderful winter break and holiday season.

~~Ellen Ranard, [ESRanard at gmail.com](mailto:ESRanard@gmail.com)  
PTSA Class of 2010 Representative

## 2011 - Juniors

The class of 2011 wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a Bright New Year. We have been busy with fundraisers this fall, including a flea market in October, two bake sales in November, two soc hops, t-shirt sales, a holiday craft show, and our first practice SAT fundraiser. We thank all of you for the contributions of time, money and items.

The 2011 parents are highly encouraged to attend the ANGP committee meeting on January 5, 2010. There are two reasons for having the junior class parents shadow the senior class parents. First, 2010 folks need the 2011 folks to be at TJ setting up and making everything wonderful while the 2010 parents are at the graduation. Second, and more importantly, the 2011 parents need to learn the process so that we can do a great job for our kids next year. **Mr. Ted Zagrobelny is the security chairperson for the 2010 ANGP. He would like one junior parent to work with him as a junior security chairperson for 2010.** If you are interested in filling this position, you can email Ted at [tzag3 at comcast.net](mailto:tzag3@comcast.net). As always, you can contact your class reps, Connie Valle at [valleccrm at cox.net](mailto:valleccrm@cox.net) or Jane Hsu at [dogstar3 at msn.com](mailto:dogstar3@msn.com).

~~ Connie Valle and Jane Hsu  
PTSA Class of 2011 Representatives

## 2012 – Sophomores

One quarter down – three to go! Time is flying by and the Silent Auction will be upon us before we know it! Here are the specifics:

WHAT: The Class of 2012 Dinner & Auction  
WHEN: Saturday Evening, March 13, 2010  
WHERE: Fort Belvoir Officers' Club.

We'll be selling tickets for the Dinner after the first of the year. You can also participate by being a TJ Class of 2012 Sponsor. Sponsorships range from \$100 to \$1,500. More information will be available in the next Techcetera.

There is a lot of work to be done now and up to the night of the dinner. Most immediately, however, we are in need of volunteers to help organize the sophomores and parents of their Cluster for just two

days—one in December and one in January. Each Cluster is asked to organize itself in groups to canvas the businesses in their area asking for donations to the auction. Jim Woods will provide the donation letters to you and meet with you to explain the process and increase the Cluster's chances of getting lots of donations. It will be up to each organizer to choose which days in December and January that you would like to meet. The kids are encouraged to go in groups with adults to assure the businesses of the legitimacy of the request. We have heard that the kids really want to get involved, so what better way to accomplish their goal? Please contact Ann Nguyen at [TJClassof2012@cox.net](mailto:TJClassof2012@cox.net) if you can help organize your Cluster. Please consider helping us make the Silent Auction a success.

Here is wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season.

~~Ann Nguyen and Janet Tasker  
PTSA Class of 2012 Representatives

## *2013 – Freshmen*

**Greetings!** My name is Pam Cooper and I have joined Yun Pang as one of the Class of 2013 parent liaisons. Like some of you, I am a 'TJ newbie.' My son Michael is a freshman, and our family is new to the TJ community. Even after 2 months, we are still finding our way, working out carpools and trying to learn all there is to know about this wonderful place. A little about me: I am an attorney and work part-time from my home-based office. I also serve on the board of the TJ Partnership Fund as the Volunteer Coordinator. Yun and I worked together at Kilmer Middle School and are very excited about working together again. She is a great partner for me and a resource for all of us, having been through the entire TJ process already with her oldest son. Please call upon us if we can help in any way to make your time at TJ a better experience.

**Welcome** to our new Class of 2013 officers! President, **William Lucht**; Vice President, **Allison Chou**; Treasurer, **Namita Kansal**; Secretary, **Sekar Novika**; Historians, **Kaley Thornton** and **Katie Hsia**; and Senator, **Minh Bui**. We are excited to have them aboard and know they will do great things for our class. Congratulations!

**Toys for Tots Collection:** The Freshmen will begin their community service project immediately after Thanksgiving. This year students will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots program sponsored by the US Marine Corps Reserve. From **November 30-December 18, new and unwrapped** toys may be brought to school. The toys will be distributed to needy families in the community. Details will follow at school and in the morning announcements. Happy Shopping!

**The Freshman Class Soc Hop** will be held on January 22, 2010. We want this to be a really fun event for the students, offering light snacks and drinks in addition to the music. We will need at least 10-15 volunteers for the dance and 'advanced work' in planning. Please let us know now if you can help. **The Freshman Lock-In** date has not yet been set, but should be soon. This is a long-standing TJ tradition and an important fund-raising event for the Class of 2013. It is also lots of fun. Stay tuned for more details so you can save the date!

Finally, December brings exams and no doubt some stresses before the holiday break. Please encourage your students to do their best – no one will ask more of them. In addition, please be sure your students are making regular contacts with their IBET group. Thursday JLC and 8<sup>th</sup> period offer opportunities to meet or arrange work sessions. Working steadily throughout the year will ensure brilliant presentations at the TJ Symposium in the spring!

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season!

~~ Yun Pang ([yunjungp0201 at gmail.com](mailto:yunjungp0201@gmail.com))  
Pam Cooper ([cooperlaw at verizon.net](http://cooperlaw.at.verizon.net))  
PTSA Class of 2013 Representatives

## **News Round-Up and Awards**

### **Siemens Winner Advances to Nationals**

At the Region One Finals of the 2009 Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology, the nation's premier high school science competition, junior **AJ Swoboda** and his teammate, Ryan Lindeborg of California, received top honors in the team category. The students presented their research in November to a panel of distinguished judges from the California Institute of Technology, host of

the Siemens Competition Region One Finals. The team's Materials Science project, titled *Optimization of Platinum Nanoparticle Deposition on Nafion Membranes*, looked at a novel method to maximize efficient platinum catalyst loading and enhance the performance of the proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cell. Among other findings, the research showcased a method to decrease the use of platinum – a very expensive metal – within the PEM fuel cell by 50%, thereby making the technology more economical as well as more scientifically approachable.

The teammates will share a \$6000 college scholarship and be invited to compete at the National Finals in New York City in December, where the winners of six regional competitions across the United States will vie for scholarships ranging from \$10,000 to the top prize of \$100,000. Good job, AJ!

In the Region Six Finals of the Siemens Competition, held in Atlanta at Georgia Tech, senior **Aryan Khojandi** was one of four individual finalists, winning a \$1,000 college scholarship. His project succeeded in conducting an electronic structure calculation for radium, opening the door to future exploration of the element's elastic constant and superconducting properties.

### **tjTODAY, Threshold Win Awards**

Jefferson's student-run newspaper, tjTODAY, edited by **Teresa Ventura**, was presented a Pacemaker Award at the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) Fall Convention on Nov. 14. This honor, often referred to as the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism, is awarded each year to about 25 newspapers across the country. Additionally, the staff of tjTODAY showed strong performances in the convention's write-off competitions. **Amelia Friedman** received a rating of "Superior" in Feature Writing, **Arvin Ahmadi** and **Carter Lockwood** received "Excellent" in Commentary Writing and Sports Writing, respectively, and **Hailey Arnold** received "Honorable Mention" in Review Writing.

Threshold, the school literary magazine, was awarded 8th place in the NSPA Best of Show competition for its 2008-2009 edition. **Liz Lagerfeld** is the editor.

Additionally, tjTODAY was awarded the highest ranking of Trophy Class this fall by the Virginia High School League, the equivalent of a state championship in scholastic publications.

### **One Question/Social Responsibilities News**

In pursuit of answers to this year's One Question (What are the Social Responsibilities of Educated People?), students have organized the remaining months of first semester into three topics. November activities focused on education issues, December will focus on poverty issues, and January will focus on environmental issues. Activities in November included the viewing of the film Freedom Writers, collecting and recording children's books for ESOL programs in local elementary schools, and a visit from a representative of Teach for America (Nov. 30). December will kick off with a visit from the organizer of "Wheels to Africa" (Dec. 4). The Social Responsibility class is organizing a Mock UN Climate Conference on December 14, in conjunction with the actual conference in Copenhagen.

### **A Chance to Hear Greg Mortenson**

On the evening of December 3, some members of the TJHSST community will be in Washington to attend a talk by Greg Mortenson, author of Three Cups of Tea and a new book, Stones into Schools. Before the event sold out, TJ purchased 10 student tickets for a raffle. Students could enter the raffle by bringing 5 cans for a food bank, or 2 children's books, to be donated to young ESOL students in Fairfax County. The following students won the raffle, and look forward to hearing Greg Mortenson speak: **Samantha Schipani, Claudia Lovegrove, Katie Mitchell, Madison Russell, Anna Stapleton, Adrienne Gillevet, Josh Stein, Morgan Pixa, Lauren Bomgardner, and Kate Kingsbury.**

### **TJ'S Environmental Resource Club and the Potomac Conservancy Join Forces For A Healthier Potomac Watershed**

What looks a bit like a search for a lost contact lens is really the Environmental Resource Club (ERC) doing its part for the Potomac Watershed. The ERC, under the direction of co-presidents **Melissa**

**Reardon** and **Nicole Boyd**, collected nearly 15 pounds of willow oak, white oak and northern red oak acorns this fall for the Potomac Conservancy's Growing Native program.

Growing Native was launched in 2001 due to the need for native hardwood seedlings to support expanding reforestation and riparian buffer restoration efforts in the Potomac River watershed. Maryland and Virginia state nurseries are experiencing a shortage of native seedling stock due to the ever-increasing demand for trees, particularly for new riparian buffer projects. TJ parent and environmental educator, Elizabeth Burke, assisted the ERC in coordinating the collection event with the Growing Native program.

A relative newcomer to the 8th period lineup, the ERC has a dual purpose: to educate students about the various fields of environmental science, and to promote environmental protection and preservation. The ERC is under the sponsorship of Laura McConnaughey.



ERC members collect willow oak acorns. With 50 acorns to the ounce, they collected nearly 2,200 of these seeds!



ERC Co-president **Melissa Reardon** with a bag of acorns collected by members.

### Science Policy Internship Update

The TJ Science Policy Internship Program continues to grow, with next semester's enrollment

the largest yet. This unique Humanities course offering for TJ seniors gives students the chance to intern in Washington, DC, at a government agency, think tank, NGO, or a corporation's government affairs office focused on science and technology policy. Program coordinators and instructors Melissa Schoeplein and Anna Brown are eagerly seeking contacts for possible internship sites. If you have any leads or would be willing to host an intern yourself please contact [Melissa.Schoeplein at fcps.edu](mailto:Melissa.Schoeplein@fcps.edu). Join the TJ parents and alums who have enjoyed hosting and mentoring a TJ science policy intern at their work place!

We would also like to thank our parent drivers for the Fall 2009 semester. The following parents helped transport students from TJ to the Metro on internship days: Libby McConnell, Latha Kumar, Mary Bohan, Julie Carlson, Bina Todi, Nannette Henderson, and Jill Cook. Thank you!

## TJHSST Partnership Fund

### TJ Partnership Fund: Every Family, Every Year

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS:** Thanks to the over **150 families** who have donated since the beginning of the school year, we have already raised over **\$40,000** and were recently able to give TJ a **\$50,000 grant** towards the planned acquisition of several high priority items from the Wish list, including:

\* **A Computerized Lathe for the Prototyping Lab (\$30K).** This lathe enables students to quickly and accurately create a part that would take a skilled lathe operator hours to construct by hand. It allows the same part to be constructed multiple times to the exact same specifications, which is vital for testing.

\* **A Homogenizing/Purification System for the BioTech Lab (\$8K).** This system prepares DNA, RNA and proteins in minutes from bacteria, plants, soil and more. It will substantially decrease both the preparation time and the purity of biotech research samples.

\* **An Engine Emissions Analyzer for the Energy Systems Lab (\$5K).** This emissions analyzer permits the collection of both pollution and efficiency data for use in alternative fuels and engine design research.

**YEAR-END APPEAL NOW UNDERWAY:** If you have been waiting until the end of the calendar year to donate, NOW IS THE TIME. It's already a win/win when you give to support your child's school, but to make it even sweeter, we are offering some incentive gifts (purchased from TJ Athletic Boosters) for donations made during the year-end appeal. For every gift of \$250 or more, you will receive the ever-popular silver TJ "ornament." For every gift of \$100 or more, you will receive an oval "TJ" bumper magnet. We want to see a parking lot full of them!

**BE ABLE TO SAY, "I GAVE AT THE OFFICE":** Remember to take advantage of your employer's **matching contributions**, where available, and to include the Partnership Fund in your United Way, Combined Federal Campaign, or other workplace campaign contributions. Note that the overhead percentage shown in some UW/CFC materials is two years out of date. Our current number is an enviable 8.2%.

**UNITED WAY#: 8705                      CFC#81947**

Please inform the Partnership Fund Office of your workplace contributions on the Year-End Donor Form. We will contact you for details.

**LAB TOURS:** Our final tour of the fall took place on November 3 and included a lunch with the Lab Directors. In the spring, in addition to an English-language tour, we would like to host both a Korean-language and a Chinese-language tour. If you can help organize or interpret for a Chinese-language tour, please contact Hilde Kahn, Parent Chair, at [hildekahn at verizon.net](mailto:hildekahn@verizon.net) or (703) 356-3307.



Neuroscience Lab Director, Paul Cammer, launches a fashion trend.

**CONTACTS:** For questions and general information, contact Kathy Young in the PF Office at [Jeffersonpartnershipfund at tjhsst.edu](mailto:Jeffersonpartnershipfund@tjhsst.edu) or (703) 750-8316. **Thank you for helping to KEEP TJ NUMBER ONE!**

## **TJHSST Boosters**

### *Academic Boosters*

#### **Math Team**

The Varsity Math Team traveled to Duke University on Halloween for their annual Math Meet. Our teams were very successful, placing 2nd, 3rd, 12th, and 15th out of 49 teams! The A team (**Brian Hamrick, Jimmy Clark, Akshar Wunnava, Yuqing Zhang, Adam Hood, and Renjie You**) was 2nd. The B team (**Sin Kim, Mitchell Lee, Allison Koenecke, Ming-Yee Tsang, Sam Rush, and Billy Rieger**) was 3rd. The D team (**Luke Cheng, Lenny Li, Krishnan Chander, Aviv Cukierman, and Allen Shi**), competing down a member, edged out the C team, placing in a 3 way tie for 12th. And the C team (**Jenny Yung, Grace Wang, Divya Garg, Andrew Cheong, Jack Chen, and Aryan Khojandi**) was behind them by just half a point, placing 15th. In the Individual Competition, Mitchell Lee, Brian Hamrick and Jimmy Clark were part of a multi-way tie for 3rd place while Adam Hood, Yuqing Zhang, and Sin Kim tied for 4th place.

#### **Model United Nations**

TJHSST Model UN Delegation claimed the Secretary General's Award for Best Large School Delegation at Fairfax Area Invitational Model United Nations Conference (FAIMUN) on October 30 and 31. TJ Delegates won Best Delegate Awards in 8 out of the 9 committees in which they participated! Congratulations to all the Delegates.

Best Delegate Awards were presented to **Andrew Barlow, Sid Bhatia, Mike Crumplar, Collin Jones, Aman Kansal, Namita Kansal, Kate Kingsbury, Swetha Pasala, Avi Sachs, Serena Saffarini, Anirudh Saraswathula, Vish Sridharan, Dennis Wang, and Shiyong Yang.** Outstanding Delegates were **Sanjeet Das, Ashu Goel, Suhas Gondi, Zach Hasseinipour, Salini**

**Hota, Xiaonan Hu, Ankit Kapoor, Anna Lan, Hannah Lan, Christine Lee, Steve Qian, Kishore Rao, and Anurag Shyamala.**

Honorable Delegates were **Omar Ahmed, Brendan Kim, Tim Song, and Jacob Zucker.**

Verbal Commendations went to **Naveed Mostaghimi, Lee Sang Burm, Kevin Cao, Ashley Hwang, Richie Hernandez, Salil Gupta, Carson Hotard, Nathan LaPierre, Nathan Thillairajah, Matt Ferrell, Pranava Rapparla, Nishant Garg, Varun Kumar, Nimesh Chakravarthi, Apoorva Lonkar, Divya Madhusudhan, Nand Kishore, Neeraj Gandhi, Yash Bhatnagar, Jake Skankman, Ryan Pillai, Will Lucht, Jen Park, Bryan Cheong, Deanna Zhu, and Dan Wang.**

### **Lincoln Douglas Debate**

On November 14, WACFL 2, our second local tournament this year, was a success for TJ's Lincoln Douglas Debate Team! At the Varsity level, **Ashneil Jain** and **Christine O'Donnell** qualified for the Metrofinals tournament in March. At the JV level, we had three qualifiers for the Metrofinals tournament: **Omeed Maghjian** (2nd place, 4-0 undefeated record), **Tushar Kamath** (3rd place, 4-0 undefeated record), and **Mark Lee** (4th place). We also had a novice debater, **Dhruv Bansal**, who was undefeated at the novice level and placed 2nd.

### **Forensics**

Jefferson's Forensics Team did very well at the 2nd Northern Virginia Forensics League Competition. **Rebecca Friedman** placed second in Extemporaneous Speaking; **Rachel Kim** placed second in Prose; **Emily Ji** placed third in Humorous Interpretation; **Leif Bakke** placed third in Original Oratory; **Kyle Angelotti** placed fourth in Extemporaneous Speaking; and **Collin Jones** and **Noah Yoo** placed 5th in Duo Interpretation.

### **Public Forum Debate**

The Public Forum Debate Team competed at WACFL 2, held at King George HS on November 14. On Junior Varsity, **Seoup Youn** and **Tiffany Dong** placed 3rd with a record of 4-0. **Snigdha Kumar** and **Mashal Wakilpoor** had a record of 3-1, making them fully qualified for Metrofinals. On Varsity, **Emily Yu** and **Rebecca Friedman** placed 6th with a record of 3-1.

### **Japan Bowl**

The Japan Bowl Club will be participating in the National Japan Bowl competition again this year (April 8-9, 2010). This year's competitors are: Level 2 team- **Bobby Ends, Albert Gural** and **Kristy Shin**; Level 3 team- **Daniel Kang, Annie Lin** and **Serena Lei**; Level 4 team- **Jungeun Choi, Connie Xie** and **Jason Ya.**

Good luck to all members! All teams are determined to win the best three on the 50th anniversary of National Cherry Blossom Festival.

### **Quizbowl**

At the VCU Fall Tournament II, the TJ Quizbowl team finished strong with Team A in 3rd and Team B in 4th. Individuals scored high with **Stephen Eltinge** in 5<sup>th</sup> place and **Diana Gerr** in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

### **Botball**

The Botball Robotics club provided a dozen volunteers, mostly as judges and set-up crew, as part of hosting a First Lego League (FLL) Robotics tournament on Sunday, November 15. FLL runs a nation-wide robotics competition for students in elementary and middle school.

### **Policy Debate**

TJ Policy Debate Team did well at the WACFL 2 tournament. **Rachel Marzen** and **Abigail Xu** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Christopher Lee** and **Sulan Zheng** placed 3<sup>rd</sup> among the Varsity teams. Christopher Lee also won the 1<sup>st</sup> place Speaker award.

### ***Band Boosters***

**TJMC:** They did it again! For the second year in a row, TJMC marched off the field in Salem, Virginia with an impressive large shiny new trophy. TJMC snared first place and was crowned STATE CHAMPIONS on a dark and shadowy Halloween night. Our band competed against three other units in its class. They scored 92.5 and took first prize in Visual, Overall Effect, General Effect, and Percussion.



TJMC savors its State Championship crown.



TJMC at Salem finals, where they took first prize in their division.



**CONGRATULATIONS!** Hats off to **John Anderson** for his successful audition for the All-VA Jazz Ensemble. John will travel to Covington, Virginia for three days of rehearsals and will perform with the group as part of the Virginia Music Educator's Conference in Hot Springs, VA at the Homestead resort.

**MORE CONGRATULATIONS!** The following TJ band (wind and percussion) participants were selected to this year's Senior Regional Orchestra: **Ellen Zhong, Haina Li, Andrew Kim, Emily Harmon, Autumn Chuang, Lauren Houck, Jack Borsi, Kennan Murphy-Sierra, Ryan Feng, and Anu Goel.** These students participated in the 2-day event, which culminated with a wonderful performance held November 14 at West Potomac HS. Great job!



TJMC on Senior Night October 30 at the final home football game.

**White House Ornaments:** Dashing off to a holiday party and you suddenly remember you need a quick but wonderful hostess gift? We have the *perfect* thing for you! Stock up on White House ornaments now so you don't have to worry later. Reserve yours at [kbvienna at cox.net](mailto:kbvienna@cox.net). Or mail in an order form (found at [www.tjhsstband.org](http://www.tjhsstband.org), click on fundraisers) and pick up your purchase in the TJ main office.

**Tag Day Fundraiser:** By now, you have already received your Tag Day donation form in the mail. Please be generous with your tax deductible contributions. Our fundraising programs enable us to keep our fees from rising. We are grateful for your kindness and support of TJ's band programs.

**KUDOS:** The curtain has come down on the TJMC 2009 fall season. Band Boosters extends heartfelt thanks to all the parents who chaperoned, checked in students for overnights, volunteered, shopped, ran errands and drove the equipment trailer. Without you, TJMC could not have achieved the Grand Finale of the season.

## ***DON'T MISS THESE BAND DATES!***

Winter concert: Thursday, December 13  
December citrus order due: Sunday, December 13  
December citrus pickup: Saturday, December 19

### ***Colonial Athletic Boosters***

#### *Urgent notice!*

*The CAB has an immediate need for a **Secretary** and for **Merchandise Co-Chairs**! Both positions are open and are key to the success of the organization. Please consider joining us – we will be happy to train you, and the jobs can be shared. Contact Jill Cook ([cooks471 at gmail.com](mailto:cooks471@gmail.com)) for more information. Thank you!*

A special thanks to everyone who attended our **CAB Banquet** on Sports Awards Night! It was wonderful to see such a big crowd come out to support and honor our student-athletes!

ATTENTION Winter Sports Parents! As we begin the winter season, we'd like to remind you how important CAB memberships and fund-raising opportunities are for our student-athletes. We must supplement the very small amount of funds we receive from the County with our own contributions. ***To maintain safe and proper playing surfaces, well-appointed gyms and up-to-date equipment, and to provide our teams with uniforms and other accessories,*** we need YOUR HELP!

Memberships begin at only \$50/yr; higher contributions earn passes to home games and other perks. Please join at:  
<http://sports.tjhsst.edu/boosters/membership.php>.

We also need many volunteers! We'd love your help with concessions (profits go 100% to athletics), ticket sales, announcing, merchandise sales, etc. Show your student you support him or her! Contact your individual team liaison, the liaison coordinator Ed Sofinowski or the CAB president Jill Cook ([cooks471 at gmail.com](mailto:cooks471@gmail.com)). Names and contact info are at: <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/boosters/index.php>.

**Scholarships:** The CAB awards four \$1,000 scholarships each year to deserving students. So please volunteer, contribute or both! Come to the

games! Cheer! Eat! Buy merchandise to show your support! It's great fun!

#### **Now, for the team news...**

**Varsity Cheer:** The competition squad competed on October 20 in the Liberty District semi's. They received **zero technical deductions** for their routine and placed fourth. At the Liberty District finals on October 27, they had another outstanding routine and again placed fourth, qualifying the squad to move on to Regionals, for the first time in 14 years! At the Regional competition on October 31, they finished in 7th place. Congratulations to the coaches and team on an outstanding season.



Varsity District Competition

**All-District:** **Amanda Gilbert** and **Victoria Kedzie** were named to the First Team All-District cheer squad. Congratulations!

The varsity competition squad was led by Captain **Amanda Gilbert** and included seniors **Maddy Byrd, Nora Gayer, Adrea Jackson, Hyun Ji, Victoria Kedzie, Dayoung Ko, Christy Moore, Minh Nguyen** and **Cheng Xu**; **Michelle Gahagan, Priya Krishnan, Lucia Melgarejo, Daniella Miller, Jane Pak, Emily Saitta** and **Kathy Shi**. **Nikki Pangilinan** was brought up from JV and joined the varsity squad on the mat at Regionals. **Joowon Choi** also joined the squad for the competition as an alternate.

Thank you parents, family, and friends for cheering our cheerleaders on at the District and Regional competitions. And thanks to the coaching staff of Melissa and Jessica Barg for a great fall season!

**JV Cheer:** The squad and Coach Carolyn attended the Liberty District Semi and Final competitions in support of the varsity squad, and continued their support of the JV football team at every home and away game. Members of the squad included captain **Jane Hu, Karina Charipova, Joowon Choi, Ashley Hwang, Anna Knight, Anna Li, Nikki Pangilinan, Srishti Shrivastava, Tiffany Wu** and **Andrew Yang**. The cheerleaders and parents thank Coach Carolyn Wilson for a great fall season!

**Cross Country:** TJ Cross Country Teams End Season as District Champs! Congratulations to both the girls and boys teams for successfully defending their Liberty District championships in 2009! The boys have now won the Liberty District title every year since TJHSST joined the Liberty District in 2005 (and have 9 consecutive District championships, starting with the 2001 season if you include their previous success in the Concorde District). Similarly, the girls have won 4 of the past 5 Liberty District championships (finishing 2nd in 2006). This is clearly a remarkable tribute to Coach Ryan and his staff for the wonderful job they have done over the years.



The TJ girl's XC squad claimed 8th place at the VA AAA State Championship. From left: **Kelly Rogers, Sarah Nielsen, Rachel Kuprenas, Rekha Schnepf, Lisa Junta, Stephanie Marzen** and **Sarah Stites**.

The girls placed fourth at the Northern Virginia Regional Championship, and eighth at the VA AAA State Championship. The boys placed fifth at the

Northern Virginia Regional Championship and narrowly missed qualifying for the VA AAA States, finishing just 9 points behind fourth place Centreville High School. However, **Jonathan Phillips** placed 11<sup>th</sup> thereby earning **All-Region Honors** and qualifying to run in the VA State Championship race, where he finished 41<sup>st</sup>.

**Dance:** Congratulations to the varsity team that competed on Nov 21 at Paul VI High School in Fairfax for the UDA Dance Competition. They placed 4th in the Varsity High Kick category and 7th in the Varsity Jazz category. A huge congratulations to **Stephanie Levin** who placed 2nd in the solo JV category! The dance team will perform in mid-December at the first basketball game, to be listed on the website, and will prepare new routines for upcoming competitions in January. Stay tuned, and thanks to all the friends and families that came out to support the team!

**Varsity Football:** The season ended with tough losses to Madison and Fairfax, a newcomer to the Liberty District. Each game featured outstanding line play with great blocks by **Jason Schwartz** and **Lawrence Diao**, big tackles by **Jonathan Yun, Ian Ladner** and **Joe Scholle**, and solid pass protection by **Jordan Bundy** and **Stas Schaller**. **Quantum Wei** and **Barnes** provided tight pass coverage in the secondary. The highlight of the Fairfax contest was a spectacular long pass reception from **Karn to Byun** that set up the ensuing touchdown run by **Shmorhun** and successful two-point conversion by **Rashid**.

The enthusiasm of our youthful team remained high to the end. Their tenacity and resilience are remarkable, especially for those who play both offense and defense. A big congratulations goes to **Alex Shmorhun** for his Honorable Mention as the 2009 "Utility Player" in the Liberty District. We wish the best of luck to seniors **Amer Ahmed, Timur Aleshin, Kwame Ampeh, Matt Chan, Lawrence Diao, Adil Dittmer, Joe Latta, Sung-Jae Park, Sy Rashid, Joseph Scholle, Alex Shmorhun, Quantum Wei** and **Bill Yu**. We look forward to next year, with the return of juniors **Daniel Barnes, Jordan Bundy, Sungwon Byun, Daniel Choo, Myles Cook, Alex Harasty, Albert Khim, Jason Schwartz, Jim Skehan, Andrew Watson, Daniel Yoo** and **Jonathan Yun**; and sophomores **Kevin Karn, Ian Ladner** and **Stas**

**Schaller**; and the addition of the rising JV squad. A special thanks to our managers **Katie Lutton** and **Katya Davydova**, whose hard work was greatly appreciated.

**JV Football:** The 2008 freshman power house formed the core of this year's Colonials JV team, which showed dedication, enthusiasm and resilience throughout the season. Quarterback **Kevin Karn** was quickly scooped up by the varsity team, as were **Ian Ladner** and **Stas Schaller** and other players throughout the season, leaving the rest to produce the most winning JV season in many years! Sadly, Coach Rucker departed in early October to serve his country, but he was covered by Coach Dodd and Coach Ames. Both the defensive and offensive lines looked to be an unstoppable force – and often were.

A huge “hat’s off” to the 2009 JV Colonials: **Alex Zaita** (receiver, D-back), **Mike Taylor** (receiver, linebacker, quarterback), **Ben Torczon** (receiver, linebacker), **Doug Hearnery** (receiver, D-back), **David Neuberger** (receiver, D-back), **Ed Cai** (running back, linebacker), **Dimitre Nitchev** (quarterback, linebacker), **Michael Maccannon** (running back, D-back), **Mark Elias** (receiver, linebacker), **Ryan Tasker-Benson** (running back, linebacker), **Bryce Summers** (O-line and D-line), **Jeongwon Choi** (O-line and D-line), **Jerry Li** (O-line and D-line), **Paul Yea** (O-line and D-line), **Luke Birch** (O-line, D-line, quarterback), **Patrick Yu** (receiver and D-back).

**Freshman Football:** In the McLean game, TJ took the lead on a 35-yard field goal by **Cole Rosenberg**. Despite strong efforts from defensive players **Robby Vasta**, **Giovani Basurto**, **Paul Bentz** and **Scott Gibson**, the team gave up a late fourth-quarter touchdown to lose 14-9.

Outnumbered 2-1, TJ lost to Langley, but the Marshall game was by far the most exciting of the season. Marshall held a 7-0 halftime lead, but the TJ line led by **Jack Brown**, **Weldon Burrow**, **Alexander Kim**, **Leonard Kosta**, **Raynor Kuang**, **Daniel Edwards** and **Emory Ruscus** held Marshall scoreless in the second half. A 4<sup>th</sup> and goal touchdown by **Joe Nissen** with 50 seconds left secured a 14-7 victory!

The offense came alive against Madison, scoring 27 points. Unfortunately, Madison scored 44. Key TJ

contributors included **Bryan Havens**, **Sean Waterton**, **Naveed Mostaghimi** and **Quark Wei**.

What a great year for the TJ freshman football team! They worked hard with their coaches throughout the season and developed into a solid, cohesive team with a strong future.

**Varsity Volleyball:** The team finished an excellent season with a tremendous victory over Madison! With six solid wins that included three shutouts against Mt. Vernon, South Lakes and Falls Church, the Lady Colonials thrilled their fans.

Head Coach Charlee Johnson and Assistant Coach Thao Luc put together a strong team, with a few returning varsity players: senior **Emily Schultz** (setter), junior co-captains **Kathleen Roche** (middle/outside hitter) and **Blair Graham** (middle/outside hitter), and sophomore **Angela Liu** (setter/defensive specialist). Additions to the varsity included juniors **Limor Steinberg** (libero), **Shannon Eriksson** (middle/outside hitter), **Sara Gokturk** (outside hitter), **Candice Kaplan** (defensive specialist), **Kaitlin Kressin** (middle hitter), **Katie McAtamney** (defensive specialist), sophomore defensive specialists **Nicole Gonzalez** and **Anna Hicks**, and freshman **Maggie Engler** (outside hitter). Manager **Biqi Zhang** did a remarkable job for us. Player **Angela Liu** was selected for the second team All-District.

With most varsity players returning, and excellent talent on our JV and freshman teams, TJ will enjoy solid volleyball for years to come!

**JV Volleyball:** The team, led by Coach Kristy Wright, always gave the fans an exciting match to watch! Juniors **Rebecca Kolkmeier** (co-captain) and **Rachel Nissen** returned to the team, joined by four players from last year's freshman team: **Jaclyn Hennegan** (co-captain), **Colleen Marshall**, **Nancy Wang** and **Allison Wang**. The new players welcomed were sophomores **Kate DeWeese** and **Stephanie Van Rafelghem**, and freshmen **Emily Bartlett**, **Kirsten Cardinal**, **Suzanne Mueller** and **Jenna Pollock**. The team managers, **Shannon Smith** and **Melody Wong**, did a terrific job. The JV team came out strong, defeating Washington-Lee and West Potomac in pre-season play and then crushing Mt. Vernon in the first regular match.

Later in the season, they shutout Marshall. We are very proud of these Lady Colonials!

**Freshman Volleyball:** All members of the team were new to the sport this year, but they took to the game with enthusiasm and determination, instructed by Coach Melissa Paul. The team was led by co-captains **Christina Shincovich** and **Namita Kansal**, with team members **Emily Aldrich**, **Niraja Bohidar**, **Jenny Chen**, **Emily Kelly**, **Sarah Liu**, **Emmelyn Luu**, **Naomi Naik**, **Schyler Pa**, **Michelle Wang** and **Yihemba Yikona**. Manager **Mashal Wakilpoor** took good care of the team. The Colonial freshmen defeated both Washington-Lee and West Potomac in the pre-season. Regular season play was more challenging, but the team broke through with a dramatic victory over Herndon. Bravo to our new Lady Colonials!

### *Crew Boosters*



Ready to try a new sport? Just want to work off Thanksgiving dinner? Join the team every day in the TJ Cafeteria to work out and get in shape for the Spring Season. We strongly encourage attendance from any rower who is not doing a winter sport. Students interested in rowing should contact the captains at [TJMensCaptains at gmail.com](mailto:TJMensCaptains@gmail.com) or [TJWomensCaptains at gmail.com](mailto:TJWomensCaptains@gmail.com) to get on their email lists and learn more about TJ Crew.

The Crew team will be holding its first **Ergathon** (on rowing machines) on Friday, February 12 in the TJ Cafeteria from 4 – 6 p.m., to raise money for the team and for the Central Asia Institute (the charity featured in the book “Three Cups of Tea”). Please sponsor our rowers and come cheer them on as they attempt to row a million meters for a good cause. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Richhart at [arichhart at gmail.com](mailto:arichhart@gmail.com).



Visit our web site at <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/crew>. If you have questions, please email the Head Coach, Matt Shoop at [shoop2 at cox.net](mailto:shoop2@cox.net), or the Booster President Pepper Richhart at [TJCrewPresident at gmail.com](mailto:TJCrewPresident@gmail.com).

### *Orchestra Boosters*

A “Thumbs Up/Well Done” goes out to all students who participated in the Northern Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra concert on November 14 at West Potomac High School!

The next TJ Orchestra concert will be Thursday, December 10. Admission is free, and a short reception will follow the concert. Volunteers are needed to set up, serve, and clean up after the reception, so please be generous with your time. Fundraiser items (TJ socks, towels, music bags) will be available for purchase.

Looking forward, the perennial favorite **Viennese Ball** is scheduled for Friday, January 8, in the TJ cafeteria. This event is open to the entire school. Our students dress in semi-formal or formal attire to be ready for an evening of elegant waltzes and music performed by members of the Symphonic Orchestra. It is truly a marvelous experience for all involved. Students coordinate the Viennese Ball, but we will need parental assistance to provide food donations and to set up, serve, and clean up. More information will follow. Keiko Nakamura and Eve Martinko will seek your help for this event, or you can contact Bobbie Herbst, [mautumn at aol.com](mailto:mautumn@aol.com).

Our next Booster meeting is on Tuesday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Principal’s Conference Room. We hope to see you there. Many thanks for your continued support of the TJ orchestra program, and please remember our program as you evaluate your end of year giving decisions. We wish you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season!

### *Theatre Boosters (Shakespeare and Drama)*

Congratulations to **Kate Zurowski**, who was named to the Virginia Theatre Association All-Star Cast at the association’s one-act play competition in Reston, Virginia, October 30-November 1. TJ Drama students performed *The Idiot and the Oddity* in the competition. Special thanks go to **Susan Lagon**, **Julie Klosky** and **Mark Strickman** for their encouragement and assistance with VTA.

Be sure to keep an eye on the 8th period signups for the Shakespeare Troupe and special events in the coming months.

Mark your calendars for the next meeting of the Theatre Boosters at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13 in the library. Please come and see how you can support the diverse theater program at TJ.



Drama students at the Virginia Theatre Association's one-act play competition

## Announcements and Information

### Meeting about Senior Research Lab Selection Process for Parents of Juniors

On the evening of Wednesday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the TJHSST Cafeteria, parents of all TJ juniors are invited to an informational meeting about the upcoming Senior Research Lab selection process. It is vital that students make informed decisions when making this selection. This meeting allows parents to obtain the same information that will be presented to juniors during eighth period on Monday, December 7. Both meetings will follow this agenda:

- 1) An overview of the thirteen Senior Technology Research Laboratories
- 2) The application process timeline
- 3) Completing the application
- 4) The graduation requirement
- 5) Mentorship option
- 6) Questions and answers

Several TJHSST staff members will be on hand to discuss the selection process. Students can find application materials at <http://fcps.blackboard.com> under the course listing "TJHSST Senior Research Lab Application Site – Class of 2011."

Parents are encouraged to attend to obtain the information needed for these important decisions. For more information, contact Robert Latham, Senior Research Lab Coordinator ([Robert.Latham at fcps.edu](mailto:Robert.Latham@fcps.edu)).

## TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair 2010

Many students are hard at work collecting data for science projects or testing their engineering ideas in order to compete in the 2010 TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair. The competition will be held on Saturday morning, February 6, in the cafeteria (snow date February 13). The fair is closed to the public during judging but will open for visitors at 1:00, with an awards ceremony in the auditorium scheduled for 2:15. If you know any junior high students who are interested in science, math, or technology, please tell them about our fair.

The ISEF forms for any Science Fair projects that include hazardous chemicals, devices, or activities are due in Room 121WK by 3:50 pm on Wednesday, December 9.

Students whose projects are not hazardous and have no sensitive aspects have until the end of school on Monday, January 11 to submit their ISEF forms. No entries will be accepted after that date. For additional information, contact Mr. Latham ([Robert.Latham at fcps.edu](mailto:Robert.Latham@fcps.edu)) or Mrs. Curtis ([Jane.Curtis at fcps.edu](mailto:Jane.Curtis@fcps.edu)).

### Student Athletes Fight the War on GERMS!

To help prevent time-loss from school and sports due to infectious diseases:

- ◆ Please make sure that your student is bringing home his/her PE uniform and athletic apparel DAILY to be washed or disinfected.
- ◆ Please make sure that athletes are showering after every practice and contest.
- ◆ Athletes have also been reminded to wash their hands with our Hibiclens soap before practice. This soap has the CHG ingredient that bonds to the skin and protects it for 6 hours. It is available in the locker rooms.
- ◆ Please remind athletes NOT to share water bottles, clothing, towels, equipment or hygiene items with other students. If they forget part of the uniform, they should see their teacher or coach, not a classmate.
- ◆ If students become sick with flu-like symptoms, please keep them home. They can return 24 hours after their fever has resolved without the use of fever reducing medications. Please email the trainers when an athlete is home sick so that we can track them.

- ◆ If athletes come down with any suspicious lesions, please refer them to us or their family physician.

In the athletic training room, we are taking steps to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Parents can purchase the same products that we use, FabricAide, SportsAid XL, and the Hibiclens soap to use at home. Please refer to this website:

<https://www.keygreenworld.com/FCPS/Default.asp> to read more on these products and to order them. You can also get more information at <http://www.fcps.edu/supt/activities/atp/index.htm>.

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have questions or concerns.

~~Heather Murphy and Kristin Lillis  
Certified Athletic Trainers

[Heather.Murphy at fcps.edu](mailto:Heather.Murphy@fcps.edu) or (703) 750-8387

## Temporary Bus Schedule Changes

Below is an updated list of delayed school openings for 2009-10 that affect students riding busses to TJHSST:

- \* Feb. 12 — Mt Vernon HS
- \* Mar. 05 — Glasgow Middle School
- \* Apr. 20 — West Springfield
- \* Apr. 23 — Mt Vernon HS

When high school delays occur, TJ students WILL NOT be picked up at their normal locations. Parents are required to transport their child to their base school in order to be transported on the TJ shuttle. Questions? Please contact Bob McCormick at (703) 750-8331.

## Useful Links

TJHSST Home Page: <http://www.tjhsst.edu/>

TJ PTSA website: <http://www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa>

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### TJ Booster Organizations:

**Academic Boosters:**

<http://academics.tjhsst.edu/aboosters/>

**Athletic Boosters:** <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/boosters/>

**Band Boosters:** <http://www.tjhsstband.org/>

**Choral Boosters:** <http://tjchoir.org/>

**Crew Boosters:** <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/crew/>

**Orchestra Boosters:** <http://arts.tjhsst.edu/orchestra/>

**Sports:** <http://www.digitalsports.com/school/id/27643.aspx>

**Theatre Boosters:** <http://arts.tjhsst.edu/theatreboosters/>

**TJ Partnership Fund:** [www.tjpartnershipfund.org](http://www.tjpartnershipfund.org)

### Other:

**FCPS Blackboard:** <http://fcps.blackboard.com>

**FCPS Familygram:**

[fcps.edu/mediapub/publicat/familygram/fall2009/index.html](http://fcps.edu/mediapub/publicat/familygram/fall2009/index.html)

**FCPS School Board:** <http://www.fcps.edu/schlbld>

**Fairfax County Supervisors:**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/>

## Noteworthy Dates

December 2009		January 2010	
1	“Money for College” presentation, 7:30pm in auditorium	4	Return from Winter Break
1	Band Booster Meeting, 6pm in Principal’s Conference Room	5	ANGP Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
1	Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library	5	Athletic Booster Meeting, 7pm in Library
<b>2</b>	<b>Junior Parent Meeting about Senior Research Labs, 7:30pm in cafeteria</b>	5	Band Booster Meeting, 6:30pm in Principal’s Conference Room
8	Class of 2011 SAT Follow-up, 7pm in Auditorium	5	Orchestra Booster Meeting, 7:30pm in Principal’s Conference Room
8	Orchestra Booster meeting, 7:30pm in Principal’s Conference Room	8	Viennese Ball, 7pm-10pm in Cafeteria
<b>9</b>	<b>SSAB Meeting, 7:30pm in Library</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Principal’s Coffee and PTSA meeting, 7pm in Library</b>
10	Choral Booster Meeting, 7pm in Music Wing	14	Choral Booster Meeting, 7pm in Music Wing
10	Orchestra Winter Concert, 7pm in Auditorium	14	Crew Booster Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
11	Class of 2010 Dance, 8pm in Gym II	15	Class of 2010 Talent Show, 7pm in Auditorium
14	Curriculum Advisory Comm. Meeting, 5:30pm in Career Center	<b>18</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, no school</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>PTSA Meeting, 7pm in Library</b>	20	Choral Concert, 7pm in Auditorium
15	Academic Booster meeting, 7pm in Career Center	<b>21</b>	<b>Junior Parent College Night, 7:30pm in Auditorium</b>
18-19	Chorus Musical “Cats!” at 7pm in Auditorium	22	Class of 2013 Soc Hop, 8:30pm in Gym II
<b>23</b>	<b>Early Dismissal, 10:50am</b>	26	Academic Booster Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
<b>Dec. 24- Jan.1</b>	<b>Winter Holiday, no school</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Teacher Work Day, no school</b>