

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Students,

At TJ we strive to make our school welcoming and inclusive to diverse populations, employing different strategies to promote our efforts. A popular 8th period choice among students is to share their interests and provide support to many different elementary/middle school students by tutoring and mentoring them, and by offering weekend festivals and competitions at our school. These experiences emulate our value of social responsibility, encouraging students to give back to the community. Among the faculty, we have formed a diversity and engagement team to offer seminars to educate other teachers, counselors, and principals about our work at TJ, particularly at schools from underrepresented minority populations.

We develop additional programs to reach more students outside of TJ so we can broaden our impact as a regional Governor's School. The school provides summer learning experiences for middle school students in week-long technology institutes, offering a variety of inquiry-based learning experiences to give younger students a flavor of the TJ experience. We also open our biotechnology lab for those students at other high schools interested in doing related research. To encourage diversity in our summer programs, our school division and corporate sponsors provide scholarships to students in economic need and those attending FCPS Priority Schools. In addition, our PTSA diversity team offers a TJ prep course in order to ready students for the admissions entry exam.

We promote activities to engage our student body in celebrating different cultures from around the world, such as I-night (International Night), which is sponsored by the eighth period club, Namaste. I-night is one of the most widely attended events at TJ, with three hours of dance, music performances, and cuisines from around the world. This year, both the auditorium and gymnasium sold out in advance of the show (if you missed the show, the DVD order form is available online at <http://bit.ly/initedvd>, and there is an I-night photo page at the end of the newsletter). Last month I

experienced a behind-the-scenes look at the preparation of I-night as a faculty participant in the boys' Namaste dance. The students designed their own choreography, taught each other during 8th period and after school, and even created instructional videos to help us learn our dance routine. It was an honor to be taught by our students, as they patiently modeled dance steps to their teachers. We were determined to dance with rhythm and coordination, requiring a lot of wishful thinking on our part!

There are two aspects about I-night I respect greatly. The first is that our students have an avenue to pursue fine arts opportunities which enrich their mind and spirit, even if they can't fit them into their academic schedule. The second is the wide degree of student participation in performances from cultures different than their own; students are not just wedded to showcasing the talents they learned growing up. Hispanic students participated in a Namaste dance, Caucasian students participated in a Black Student Union dance, and students from mixed races sang a Japanese song. There were many more examples of multiculturalism among the 30 performances. This celebration of diversity deepens our appreciation for our differences and expands our curiosity to learn more about each other's backgrounds. Regardless of our heritage, our school is a much more robust environment when we participate in efforts that make TJ a welcoming and inclusive place for diverse populations.

I am interested in learning other ways in which we can support diversity at our school. Please don't hesitate to contact me with ideas at [Evan.Glazer at fcps.edu](mailto:Evan.Glazer@fcps.edu), so TJ can be an even better place for learning and growing.

Sincerely,
Evan Glazer
TJ Principal

President's Message

This spring, our freshman, sophomore and junior students will choose their courses for next year. Our seniors will decide where to attend college. In the meantime, our students will participate in a wide range of 8th period and after-school activities.

Parents often think of high school activities as something students must do to get into college. However, activities serve other crucial purposes. They allow students to pursue academic, athletic, musical or other passions. They also teach important life skills, such as how to organize events and work effectively with others.

In addition, activities provide opportunities for our students to make and socialize with friends. This often overlooked benefit can have more impact on our children's futures than where they attend college. For example, a student who burns out during high school and barely studies during college may not impress graduate schools or prospective employers, no matter where he attended college.

Because some student activities have been terminated, questions were raised during our last PTSA meeting. After the PTSA meeting, I found that FCPS Regulation 3866.1 was revised on February 25, 2010, to add sections that impact TJ students. For example, "any group wanting to represent an FCPS high school in an event may do so only when the group is currently registered as an activity at the school (or is currently endorsed by the principal) and is accompanied at the competition by an official sponsor (FCPS employee)." In addition, a principal may close an existing club or activity if, among other things, it lacks an FCPS employee sponsor.

During the PTSA meeting, Dr. Glazer acknowledged that TJ generally requires a faculty sponsor for any 8th period activity, while the FCPS regulation only requires an FCPS employee, who doesn't necessarily work at the school where the activity is located. TJ's rule is designed to ensure that sponsors carefully supervise students, especially during trips. However, Dr. Glazer acknowledged that exceptions had been made, when parents knew the students well. TJ also has allowed some student academic teams to attend out-of-town events without faculty sponsors, but only on the condition that they do not imply that they represent TJ.

Unfortunately, TJ students have had trouble finding sponsors for 8th period activities in the last few years, especially if the activities included trips. Dr. Glazer explained at the PTSA meeting that this is partly because teachers have more students due to larger class sizes. In

addition, many TJ faculty members serve on task forces and school committees and organize school events.

So, what can parents do? The PTSA this year is providing volunteers during 8th periods to supervise computer labs or study halls, which frees up TJ faculty to sponsor activities during 8th period. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Nancy Levonian at volunteerfor8th@gmail.com. In addition, please talk with our hardworking faculty to better understand all of their competing obligations, and ask what you and other parents can do to help.

Another idea is to have a booster group or the PTSA enter into contracts with individuals to become paid activity sponsors. FCPS Notice 8424 (effective May 26, 2010) provides detailed rules on how to structure these arrangements.

To some extent, these issues stem from inadequate resources. So, the PTSA Government Relations Committee has spent many hours working to obtain increased funds for TJ from the state, with help from Dr. Glazer. We thank everyone who contacted state delegates and senators, and hope that at the next PTSA meeting we can deliver happy news about the state budget.

Looking ahead, the PTSA nominating committee is actively seeking new officers. If you are potentially interested in serving as a PTSA officer next year, please contact the PTSA Nominating Committee Chair at gbrodfuehrer@verizon.net.

Finally, a follow-up program to the recent showing of *Race to Nowhere* will be held on Tuesday, March 22, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Langley HS Auditorium. The program, sponsored by the Safe Community Coalition, will include a discussion on the balance of academics, extracurriculars, and social stresses during the high school years. The discussion will be lead by Dr. William Stixrud, Ph.D., a clinical neuropsychologist.

This free event is open to the general public. For additional information about this program, please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you!

~~Louise Epstein
TJ PTSA President
lepstein@cox.net
ptsa.president@tjhsst.edu

Reminders from our Administration

Forms Forms Forms!!!

Students are submitting forms for scholarships, college applications, field trips, job applications, and more. Please make sure that if your student needs to have a form signed by someone at TJ, that they follow these basic rules.

- First, no one will sign a blank form, so complete the form before asking anyone at TJ to sign it.
- Second, never complete a form in pencil. Either use a pen or complete the form online and print it out.
- Third, don't bring the form to the principal for a signature until after the teachers, parents, and/or guidance counselors have already signed the form.
- Fourth, don't expect people to drop everything to sign a form when you show up.
- Fifth, if you need the principal's signature, bring the completed form to Margo Stead in the front office at the beginning of the day, and make arrangements to pick the signed form up at the end of the day or another time.
- Sixth, don't wait until the last minute. Respect deadlines/due dates and have forms completed for final signatures BEFORE they are due!

Completing forms on time is part of being an adult; the time to learn how to do it is now!

PTSA Update

Nominations for TJ PTSA Officers -- The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for elected positions on the TJ PTSA Executive Committee for the 2011-2012 school year. Do you want to get involved and make a difference at TJ? Do you want to keep up to date with what's going on and network with other parents, students, and teachers? Then we have the job for you! Please step forward and volunteer to serve as an officer on the PTSA Executive Committee. The positions are: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. In order to provide continuity and experience, we expect that 2-4 of the current officers will serve another year in some capacity.

Any PTSA member with the willingness and ability to serve and provide leadership is welcome to apply. (Note: PTSA by-laws require that a person may be nominated for president only if he/she has served on the executive board for at least one term.) PTSA members who want to nominate someone else for an office may do so, with the nominee's permission. **The deadline for nominations is March 18, 2011.**

The nomination form can be found at the end of this newsletter and on the PTSA website. Please send any questions or completed forms to the Nominating Committee at [GBrodfehrer at verizon.net](mailto:GBrodfehrer@verizon.net). The Nominating Committee members are Gail Brodfehrer, Jill Cook, Linda Loffredo, Sara Schneider and Nirmala Sundararaman.

Volunteer Committee

Hello wonderful TJ volunteers! Please keep in mind these upcoming opportunities and contact Jill Cook ([cooks471 at gmail.com](mailto:cooks471@gmail.com)) if you are interested.

Freshman Packet-stuffing: The date for stuffing of the Freshman Preview Packets will be sometime in late March – we will post the exact date on the PTSA website.

AP Test Proctors: We need at least 60 volunteers to cover the AP tests. Test dates are May 2-16; we will post detailed shift information in the April *Tech cetera*.

Also, adult volunteers are needed to help at *Shakespeareance* on **March 5**. *Shakespeareance* is a program run by TJ students at which children learn about Shakespeare and acting. The event is held at TJ and is free. **We need chaperones to help manage the event, or Shakespeareance may not happen this year.** *Shakespeareance* will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on March 5, with check-in at 8:00/8:30 a.m., and clean-up following until 4:00 p.m. Even half of a day can help us, with shifts from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. If you have questions regarding this event or can volunteer, then please send an e-mail to [tj.shakespeareance at gmail.com](mailto:tj.shakespeareance@gmail.com).

Landscaping Committee

We have had a very interesting winter this year, but the grey days will soon be relieved by beautiful daffodils blooming around the front of the school. The members of our 8th period Cultivators of the Earth Club have used the time to contribute fact sheets on our plant material. Special thanks to **Milde Waterfall, Alison Yu and Emily Zhou.**

If the weather holds, we should be able to get back in the gardens to work by the end of March. **I am proposing a Weekend Gardening Effort for March 27 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Students—these efforts can count for NHS or other service requirements.** We would love to have as many TJ parents, students and staff as possible join us on that day to work on cleaning the garden beds to prepare for spring blooms. If you can join us, or want to be added to our email volunteer list, please contact Eleni Silverman at [eleni at cox.net](mailto:eleni@cox.net), or (703) 960-1261. We do need you to let us know if you plan to attend so that we can contact you in case weather or other circumstances prevent us from gardening. **We will resume our regular Friday Gardening Days on April 1.** You can also [check our webpage](#) for planned garden workdays.

Cluster V Information

Is your base school in Cluster V? (It is if your child would otherwise be going to South County, Edison or Lee High Schools.) If it is, and you are not currently part of the Google group for Cluster V parents, please send an email to the Cluster V representative, Nannette Henderson, at [clustervrep at gmail.com](mailto:clustervrep@gmail.com). Our group is very small right now, which makes it difficult to be a very good resource for parents; we are trying to change that situation.

Upcoming Events

Cyber Behavior: Myths and Realities Exposed

On **March 2, at 6:45 p.m.** before the PTSA meeting in the library, there will be a special session on “Cyber Behavior: Myths and Realities Exposed.” The session will feature a brief presentation from FCPS Safety and Wellness about trends in student

social networking, including the good, the bad, and the ugly. A panel of students, teachers, and parents will be answering questions from different perspectives to guide our understanding on how to resolve conflicts and develop effective guidelines between students and adults.

If you are confused or have good ideas to share about the use of social media websites like Facebook and FormSpring, this session is for you!

Community-Wide Renovation Meeting . . . Come Join us!

Do you have any idea what TJ will look like in 5 years.....want to know? Join the architect and design team for an exciting informational meeting on Tuesday, **March 8 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.** in the Career Center. During the evening, you'll be treated to a look at the detailed design drawings that were created after many months of obtaining feedback and envisioning the needs that our unique school will require well into the future. This will also be a great opportunity for you to ask questions. So, for those parents with younger children who may have the privilege of experiencing TJ's renovated building first-hand, and for those parents and students who simply love TJ and are curious as to what it will look like when coming back to visit, this evening is for you!

TJ Faculty & Parent Choir



4 rehearsals – 2 songs – 1 performance

Rehearsals in the TJ Choir Room: Friday, March 4 (4:00-5:00 p.m.); Tuesday, March 8 (4:00-5:00 p.m.); Friday, March 11 (4:00-5:00 p.m.); Tuesday, March 15 (4:00-5:00 p.m.). **Performance at the TJ Choir Pre-Festival Concert:** Thursday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) 7:00 p.m.

No previous singing experience necessary. A prize goes to the department with the highest percentage of participation! **Questions?** Contact **Molly Khatcheressian**, TJ Choir Director, at [molly.khatcheressian at fcps.edu](mailto:molly.khatcheressian@fcps.edu), or just show up to the first rehearsal.

Don't Miss the TJ PiMiler!



On Saturday, **April 2 at 9:00 a.m.**, there will be a Fun Run/ Walk of Pi miles (3.14159), sponsored by the Class of 2013, at TJHSST. This event is open to all ages. Come for Pies, Prizes, Food & Fun! Register at: www.PiMiler.com. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Serving the TJ Community

Free Money \$\$\$

Do all of your Amazon.com shopping through the PTSA's link -- <http://amazon.com/?tag=tjhsst-20> – to earn free money for TJ! This link can also be found on the [Support the PTSA](#) web page. Bookmark it now and use it every time you shop! Questions? Email [joe at ganley.org](mailto:joe@ganley.org).

All Night Graduation Party (ANGP)



Donations to ANGP

The total cost of the ANGP exceeds \$50,000--ticket sales alone do not cover the costs. We need donations! To keep the financial burden off parents, we need to get some help from local businesses. Every parent can help with this! Consider where you shop now, and remember those shop owners and businesses that might be willing to donate items or gift cards for the ANGP raffle. Last year, a company donated a laptop; many others donated gift cards that could be used as prizes, or to cover the costs of decorations or food for the party. Ask your employer if they can help out. Many companies make matching contributions. Think big and remember who you are asking for—your hard-working Senior! If you can help solicit a business, please contact our fundraising chair, Trudie

Thomas, at [punarotap at yahoo.com](mailto:punarotap@yahoo.com). Trudie can provide you with solicitation materials, and we also want to make sure that we do not approach the same potential donors more than once.

Financial donations can be made by check (payable to "TJHSST ANGP") or by credit card at <http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/payments.htm>. Every donation of \$50 or more may include a 30 character dedication (e.g. "To the Senior Wrestlers" or "Great job Mary!" or "We are so proud Will!"), and will be recognized on the ANGP website by donor level of giving—Champion (\$500 or more), Benefactor (\$250), Patron (\$100), or Friend (\$50). For donation forms and other information on donating, check out the donations section of the [ANGP website](#).

Security Chair Needed

We still need someone to act as the Security Chair! The duties of the security chair include coordinating with Fairfax County policy for police presence needs, writing an emergency plan for the fire marshal, and controlling arrival, departure, parking and pick-up areas, and documenting security standards. There is no need to re-invent the wheel, as we have information from prior years' parties. Please contact the ANGP committee at [tj2011angp at gmail.com](mailto:tj2011angp@gmail.com) if you can help.

ANGP Tickets

Don't wait any longer to purchase your senior's ANGP ticket! Graduation will be here before you know it. Your senior won't want to miss out on the most spectacular (and last) party they'll ever attend at TJ with their friends. [here](#) for the order form.

Student Services Corner

Student Government Association

The SGA has been hard at work on Service Week 2011, which kicked off with I-night on February 18 and continued through the 25th. Although there will be several service projects, SGA has chosen Reston Interfaith as the sole organization we will be

donating to at the conclusion of Service Week. Clubs, organizations and students will all work together to host events and fundraisers that show off the positive energy of TJ students.

Another task ahead of us is choosing a club to receive this year's Slivoskey Grant. Applications were due on January 14, and we have begun sorting through the submissions to decide which one will win the \$1,000 for a project which undertakes to better the TJ community.

Guidelines

The latest edition (December 2010-February 2011) of *Guidelines*, the TJHSST Student Services Department newsletter, is posted under "Publications and Resources" at: www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/dss/pubs.php. The March edition should be available shortly.

Academic News

German News

National German Exam: All German II, III, and AP German students took the National German Exam in January. The students listed below (76% of our test takers) scored in the 90th percentile (or higher) of the nation. (Students with the asterisk scored at first place in Virginia and/or the nation.)

Congratulations to these German II students, who scored in the 90th percentile for the nation:

Jonathan Colen *; Rebecca Applin; Panya Vij; Andrea Lorico; Tony Reiter; Debbie Yu; Paul Bentz; Christine Lucky; Vaughn Varma; Arlan Jaska; Martha Shields; James Forcier; Angela Tang; Nathan Hughes; Reese Frerichs; Soumya Mishra; Seungho Lee; Josh Stein; Jenna Pollock.

Congratulations to these German III students, who scored in the 90th percentile for the nation:

Michael Scheaffer *; Karin Lehnigk *; Elizabeth von Spakovsky; Timothy Eklund; Eli Auerhan; Stewart Hahn; Colleen Marshall; Daniel Kang; Gilbert Pitcher; Linda Ho; Collin Berman; Kevin Tong; Ben Boinay; Vijay Kuruvilla; Tom Hillenbrand; Ben Hatanpaa; Andrew Draganov; Samuel Dallstream; Greg Anderson.

Congratulations to these German AP students, who scored in the 90th percentile for the nation:

Daniel Mares; Zartosht Ahlers; Daniel Shanker; Abhishek Cauligi; James Miller; Andrew Rowberg; Casey Huang; Kate Deweese.

Fun (Spaß) with German: The German Honor Society and club welcomed February by making and decorating gingerbread hearts. Students had much "Spaß" (fun) decorating and eating their gingerbread hearts.



Karin Lehnigk and classmates enjoy their gingerbread hearts.



Cassidy Walsh, GHS president, led some of her fellow GHS members in preparing German folk dance (the Schuhplattler) for I-night.

Class News

2011 – Seniors

Please pay your child's senior class dues ASAP. The cost is \$30. Make your check payable to TJHSST with a memo line: Student's name and "Senior Class Dues." Your student can drop the check off in room 238, or you can mail it to TJ with "Attn. Jen Pierce – Class of 2011" noted on the envelope.

There is still time to purchase the deluxe original graduation announcements by contacting Balfour at www.Balfour.com or (703) 941-1436.

Do you know of someone who would make a great graduation speaker? If so, please email their name(s) to tjgrad2011@gmail.com. And please support the ANGP by ordering one of two graduation lawn signs. Order forms are located in the main office. You can also request a copy of the order form by emailing Connie Valle.

~~ Connie Valle (703) 434-0181;
(vallefamily@cox.net)
Jane Hsu (703) 748-0689;
(dogstar3@msn.com)
PTSA Class of 2011 Representatives

2012 - Juniors

The junior class is hosting the **Mr. Colonial** competition in the main gym on the evening of **Friday, March 11**. On Saturday, May 14, we are taking a class trip to the Six Flags amusement park in Maryland. The cost will be about \$50, which will include admission to the park, transportation to and from TJ, lunch at the park, and a t-shirt. Stay tuned for more details. We could also use some parent chaperones; admission would be free, if any are interested. It will be an all day trip (9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.). And we are still looking for parent chaperones for Junior Camp Out on June 20 – June 21. Please e-mail us at TJClassof2012@cox.net if you can chaperone.

Next year, it will be your turn to throw the All Night Grad Party (ANGP)! At a minimum, Junior parents need to consider taking a volunteer shift at this year's ANGP to see what it is all about. You can sign up at:

<http://tinyurl.com/2011TJANGPVolunteers>.

However—if you can be more involved, or are considering taking on a chair position, please be a shadow to one of this year's chairs. It will give you a very realistic view of the level of time and effort required to do the job next year. If you would be interested in talking to someone about shadowing one of this year's chairs so that you are ready for senior year, please get in touch with us: tjangp2011volunteers@gmail.com. We are especially interested in finding a shadow for the Security, Logistics, and Wrap Up committees, but

all the committees would benefit from having a shadow.

~~ Ann Nguyen (ann.h1.nguyen@cox.net)
Janet Tasker (jtasker@cox.net)
PTSA Class of 2012 Representatives

2013 – Sophomores

Happy almost Spring! Many thanks to those that helped out with the re-scheduled Soc Hop on February 11. Despite competing sporting events, the dance was quite a success. We are now moving full steam ahead with the Inaugural TJ Pi Miler Race, on April 2 at 9:00 a.m. The 3.14159 (approx.) mile race will be held on the school grounds and surrounding neighborhoods and is open to the entire school and the community at large. DC Road Runners is assisting us with race support and publicity. We have had many offers of support for before, during and after the race, but more support would be welcomed. We still need donations of water bottles, sports drinks and pies! We plan to award pies to some of the Pi race winners and to sell them as an additional fundraiser on race day. Registration and monetary donations can be made using the Pi Miler website: www.pimiler.com. If you own a business and would like to support the race, a variety of sponsor levels are available. Of course, we look forward to many of our students and their families as race participants as well!

Spring also brings registration for junior-year classes. There are many exciting offerings at TJ but your student should focus on what senior research projects they may be interested in, so that they can register for any pre-requisite classes in junior year. Informational sessions have been held for both students and parents by school administrators. In addition, sophomores are scheduled to visit the labs on March 9 and 11 during school. If you need further information, please contact your student's counselor.

~~Yun Pang (yunjungp0201@gmail.com)
Pam Cooper (cooperlaw@verizon.net)
PTSA Class of 2013 Representatives

2014 – Freshmen

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – we have a date!! **May 13** will be our **Freshman Lock-In!** Many of you have already signed up, but in case you haven't had a chance, please let us know if you can help. We'll need around 100 volunteers. We don't have specific details on shifts yet, but please keep the date open on your calendars.



Freshman Fundraiser Still Ongoing! The reusable grocery bags are wonderful – and still available! They are very durable and they're a great way to show your support with the TJ logo gracing the bags.

Bags are \$5 for one or \$10 for three. Checks should be made to TJHSST and sent to Mr. Kosek's room, 146. To order, contact our Freshman Class Treasurer, Christine Mayuga, at [queenstine123 at gmail.com](mailto:queenstine123@gmail.com).

~~Amy Shaw ([wyoamy at gmail.com](mailto:wyoamy@gmail.com))

Anita Rezasad ([arezasad at orchidtech.net](mailto:arezasad@orchidtech.net))

Vicki Ruitter ([theruiters at verizon.net](mailto:theruiters@verizon.net))

PTSA Class of 2014 Representatives

News Round-up and Awards

Science and Engineering Fair

TJ held its annual Science and Engineering Fair on February 5, with teams or individuals presenting 114 projects. A panel of judges for each of the sixteen categories evaluated the projects and bestowed first, second, third and honorable mention awards for student research.

Mr. Jim Jarvis, Science and Technology Division Manager and this year's Science Fair Chairman, conducted the awards ceremony. **Dr. Evan Glazer** presented awards and personally congratulated all of the student participants. Thirty-four projects carried out by a total of 47 students in teams or as individuals earned first place honors. First place medals went to: **Archis Bhandarkar, Yash Bhatnagar, Riley Ennis, Shannon Eriksson,**

Suhas Gondi, Cindy Han, Venkat Iyer, Doohyung (Lio) Kang, Jun Hong (Johnny) Kim, Helen Lai, Robin Lashof-Regas, Miles Le, Christopher Lee, Elvin Lee, Andrea Li, Darwin Li, Katherine Lin, Katie Lutton, Divya Madhusudhan, Shreyas Mahapatra, Esha Maharishi, Rishabh Samir Mazmudar, Michael Nguyen, Veronica Peterkin, Rithvik Prasannappa, Clara Prencipe, Pranava Raparla, Craig Saperstein, Jee In Seo, Sameer Singh, Allison Smedberg, Kevin Sun, Mary Sun, Michael Wu, Lianna Yang, Victor Youk, Choong-Seoup Youn, Yuqing Zhang, Jennifer Zhao, Kevin Zhou, and Catherine Zucker.

Despite the strength of so many projects, TJ, like all other participating schools, is allotted only 22 places at the Regional Science and Engineering Fair in addition to automatic slots for any Siemens or Intel semi-finalists whose projects qualify under International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) rules. Those 22 projects are chosen by a protocol that takes into account the awards, the judges' rankings and recommendations as well as the size of the category in which the student competed.

The Regional Fair will be held at Robinson Secondary School March 18-20, with judging to be held on Saturday, March 19 and awards announced on Sunday, March 20. Grand Prize winners at the Regional Fair will be invited to the ISEF in Los Angeles, May 9 – 13.

TJ congratulates all students who undertook research projects for the fair and who spent time and energy on presenting their work.

2010 Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement

Sin Kim and **Stephanie Marzen** were named the Virginia state winners of the 2010 Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement, a signature program of the Siemens Foundation administered by the College Board. The awards recognize up to 100 of America's top achievers in Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) science and mathematics courses with a \$2,000 college scholarship to one male and one female student in each state. This year, 98 high school students in 50 states – including 91 seniors, six juniors and one sophomore – were recognized.

U.S. Department of Education Presidential Scholar's Program

Congratulations to the following students who have received invitations to participate in the U.S. Department of Education's Presidential Scholar's selection process: **Meghan Anand, Thalia Aoki, So-Hyun Baik, Kevin Boehm, Zach Brunt, Connor Cheong, William Dalton, Manna Fujiu, Divya Garg, Alisha Geldert, Akaash Gupta, Kelly Ivins-O'Keefe, Clint Johnson, Stefani Karp, Bianca Kim, Anna Knight, Karthik Krishnan, Monica Liu, Alexa Lowman, Vivian Lu, Kathryn McAtamney, Olivia Murton, Jeremy Owen, Eugenie Quan, John Sununu and Jeremy Weller.**

Students are invited to participate in the process based on their scores on SAT and ACT examinations. Those chosen as U.S. Presidential Scholars receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June and are recognized at a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

Scholastic Writing Awards

Congratulations to the TJHSST 2011 Scholastic Writing Awards regional winners, announced by Scholastic's new regional affiliate Writopia Lab DC. All students will be honored on April 14 at the Spectrum Theatre in Rosslyn.

Gold Keys: Seniors **Eli Auerhan, Rachel Kim** and **Nayan Lamba.**

Silver Keys: Seniors **Emily Crowe, Michael Crumplar, Nayan Lamba,** and **Ronit Malka;** sophomore **Sung jin Kim.**

Honorable Mentions: Seniors **Mircea Cernev, Lisa Junta, Sarah Khan, Elizabeth King, Nayan Lamba, Hal Libby, Ronit Malka,** and **Sara Suarez;** junior **Lucia Liu** and freshman **Shayna Hume.**

Many of these students submitted in multiple categories that included portfolios, persuasive writing, personal essay/ memoir, poetry, short story, journalism and humor. Those works that received Gold Key awards will be forwarded to the national level competition.

Scholastic Art Awards

The following TJHSST students have won regional awards in the Scholastic Art Awards competition, sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers: **Gloria Duan,** Gold Key, Art Portfolio; Certificate of Merit, Painting; **Melanie Kim,** Certificate of Merit, Painting; **Young Ji Kim,** Silver Key, Art Portfolio; Silver Key, Drawing; **Lucia Liu,** Certificate of Merit, Painting; **Megan Ganley,** Gold Key, drawing.

An awards ceremony for Gold and Silver Key winners was held on February 22. Gold Key award-winning entries will be submitted to the national Scholastic Art Awards competition, where students are awarded national Gold and Silver Keys, as well as monetary awards and scholarships. Awards will be announced in April, and an exhibit of the national winners' works will be on display in New York later this year.

For more information about the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, go to www.artandwriting.org/.

Top Youth Volunteers in Prudential Spirit of Community Program

Priya Krishnan, a TJ junior, has been named one of Virginia's top two youth volunteers for 2011 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Program. Following a trip to India with her family several years ago, Krishnan created a nonprofit foundation, Save a Child Now, to support two orphanages and a rural school for girls in India. She asked local technology companies to donate their used computers and cell phones to the nonprofit, which were then sold to recyclers, and solicited donations via direct mail and the organization's web site, www.saveachildnow.org. Priya was recently interviewed on National Public Radio regarding her efforts to use technology to benefit autistic children. To hear the interview, go to:

http://wamu.org/news/11/02/21/local_teen_helps_families_of_autistic_children_in_va.php.

As a state honoree, Krishnan will receive \$1,000, a silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, D.C., in May for several days of national recognition events. At that time, 10 of the state volunteers will be named America's top youth volunteers for 2011.

TJHSST Partnership Fund

It's Not Rocket Science: Your Support for the Partnership Fund Helps Make TJ Even Better

YEAR-END APPEAL HITS \$125,000 AND KEEPS ON GOING . . .

JUNIOR PARENTS, START YOUR ENGINES: THE JUNIOR LAB APPEAL IS ABOUT TO BEGIN! TJ's second annual Junior Lab Appeal kicks off in mid-March. The JLA is a great way to help your junior student's lab acquire needed equipment, possibly something your own child will use next year. Lab Captains from participating labs will soon be contacting parents of students in those labs to give them the details. Last year junior parents raised over \$41,000 during the JLA. This year's JLA Wish List includes microscopes, cameras, batteries (batteries? Yes, industrial-strength power supplies and battery packs are very expensive), and more. Come on parent class of 2012, let's outdo the class of 2011!

CALLING ALL FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE PARENTS WHO HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED YET THIS SCHOOL YEAR: THAT RING YOU HEAR IS THE TJ PARENT-TO-PARENT PHONATHON. On the afternoon of Sunday, March 6th, Partnership Fund volunteers will be sitting in the TJ cafeteria, using their cell phones to call every freshman and sophomore parent who has not yet contributed this school year. If we miss you, you need to chat with your spouse, or you prefer not to give your credit card number over the phone, we'll be following up with emails and donor forms. Thank you in advance for supporting TJ through the Partnership Fund.



Nate Skolnik, TJ '11, will no doubt find the part he needs, now that the Robotics Lab has acquired this amazing parts storage cabinet, purchased with Partnership Fund donations. We can't emphasize enough that not all items needed by the labs are high-tech, and not all are expensive, but they all make a difference, just like every gift.

Jane Willner, a senior at TJ, was recognized as a Distinguished Finalist by the program. She was cited for founding Listening, a community outreach project to raise awareness of the deaf community. Willner, who is trained in American Sign Language, sponsored a series of deaf awareness workshops and created DVDs for elementary students who are deaf.

For more information, visit <http://spirit.prudential.com/view/page/soc>.

Falls Church Rotary Speech Contest

Noah Yoo (2012) won first place, and a \$100 prize, in the Falls Church Rotary Speech Contest. Noah gave a talk in under eight minutes on the topic, "Building Communities, Bridging Continents." He advances to the finals, held by the Northern Virginia Rotary District 7610, on March 19 in Fredericksburg.



Milde Waterfall, TJHSST English Dept. (third from left); **Noah Yoo** (fourth from left).

NASA Selects a Nanosatellite Proposed by TJHSST Students for Launch in 2011 and 2012

The TJ³SAT (CubeSat), developed over the course of five years by more than 50 students in TJ's Systems Engineering class, has been selected by NASA to fly as auxiliary cargo aboard one of the rockets planned to launch this year and in 2012. TJHSST is the only high school to be selected for the program. The satellite is a class of research spacecraft called nanosatellites or picosatellites. They are approximately four inches long, with a volume of about one quart and a weight of 2.2 pounds or less.

For additional information about the program, visit:

<http://www.cubesat.org/> and <http://tj3sat.wikidot.com/>.

VISIT US ONLINE: The PF has its very own website, which can be reached from the TJ site's "Support" tab or at www.tjpartnershipfund.org. Now you can donate online and get your PF info all in one place. Check it out!

VOLUNTEER PF TREASURER NEEDED: If you care about TJ, have some time, and have a background in finance or accounting, please consider volunteering as Partnership Treasurer for next year. If you're available now, you can shadow the current Treasurer for the next several months and gradually become familiar with the process. It's a great way to use your skills to give back to the School.

CONTACT: For any and all Partnership Fund information, including information about the volunteer position mentioned above, please call Ellen Smith, PF Office Manager & Development Associate, at (703) 750-8317 or email [ellensmith at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ellensmith@tjhsst.edu).

Thank you for helping to MAKE TJ EVEN BETTER!

Thanks to the PTSA and the Partnership Fund From the Chemical Analysis Research Lab

Thank you to the PTSA for its most recent support of the Chemical Analysis Research academic programs. The PTSA faculty allocations committee has provided support to cover substitute costs that will allow me to be able to attend a week of technical training at the Shimadzu headquarters for the newly acquired gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer (GC/MS). Such training will provide in-depth instruction for all aspects including instrument operation, software use, and specialized maintenance that must be performed on a regular basis. Such support is particularly beneficial at a time when the county has been unable to provide such funding.

During my nine years at TJ, the TJ Partnership Fund (including its Junior Lab Appeal) has provided over \$250,000 to the Chemical Analysis Research lab, with similar support for many other research labs and TJ programs. The GC/MS, which cost nearly \$85,000, is one of many recent instruments purchased by the Partnership Fund. The Chemical Analysis Research lab also has received desktop and laptop computers, specialized software and

books, Fourier Transform Infrared, Raman, and Ultraviolet/Visible spectrometers, a refractometer, and numerous lab upgrades. In addition, we will soon receive a new fluorescence spectrometer.

In 2002, the primary 'technology' in the lab was a collection of older one-piece MAC computers.

Today, the lab is on par or better than many college-level teaching facilities. I cannot say thank you enough to all parent groups for their support, which provides advanced learning opportunities for our students.

Dr. Brian Kennedy

Director, Chemical Analysis Research Lab

TJHSST Boosters

Academic Boosters



We The People: On February 4, the State final "We the People" competitions, sponsored by the Center for Civic Education and the James Madison Center for the Constitution, were held in

Richmond. TJ students in **Dale Kummer's** 4th period AP Government class placed third in the state, trailing only perennial national power Maggie Walker Governor's School and (by three points out of 720) James River High School. This was TJ's first year to participate in the event.

The state competitions were held in the historic courtrooms of the Fourth Circuit of Appeals, next to the state capital. Judges included elected officials, university professors, law enforcement leaders, and other scholars of the U.S. Constitution.

The "We the People" curriculum is provided to teachers through generous federal funding, and was supported at TJ by the Academic Boosters and the PTSA. The culminating activity is a simulated congressional hearing wherein students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution while they evaluate and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. The curriculum also contributes to the understanding of many of the

guidelines necessary to prepare for the AP exam in government and politics.

Previously, TJ competed in the District level event held in Manassas. At that level, TJ students won four of the six unit competitions, and were declared the overall winners.

At the State final, TJ's Unit II team of **Alla Herman, Nicky Pangilinan, Aaron Williams** and **Jason Yang** scored highest, with their consideration of a question based on James Madison's Federalist 48.

To read more about the victory, see <http://www.jlab.org/news/OnTarget/Story4.html> or "like" the Official National Science Bowl page on Facebook.

Forensics: Congratulations to our Forensics team. On February 2, the TJ forensics team placed second in Districts. **Nidhi Takanti** and **Nita Gandhi** were 1st in Dramatic Duo; **Rachel Kim** was 2nd in Poetry; **Kyle Angelotti** was 1st in Extemp.; **Leif Bakke** was 1st in Original Oratory; and **Emily Ji** was 2nd in Original Oratory.

Lincoln Douglas Debate: TJ's LD debate team has succeeded yet again at the recent tournaments held at Columbia. **James Wang**, a novice debater, "broke" (qualified for elimination rounds) in the novice category; **Ashneil Jain** and **Akaash Gupta** broke to the octafinals. Congratulations to LD team members!!!!

Physics Olympiad: Congratulations to the following TJ students who have advanced to the USA Physics Olympiad semifinals: **James Bradbury, Will Bunting, John Chae, Alex Chen, Andrew Cheong, Margaret Coad, Alex Dalzell, Stephen Eltinge, Albert Gural, Adam Hood, Daniel Jang, Sin Kim, Mitchell Lee, Zeming Lin, Evan Liu, Samuel Nicoll, Billy Rieger, Elliott Simon, Seungin Sohn, Peter Town** and **Yuqing Zhang**.

Science Bowl: Congratulations to the TJ Science Bowl team of **Steve Qian, Alex Yang, Zeming Lin, Alec Brenner** and **Owen Gray**. On February 5, they captured the Virginia Regional Science Bowl championship. They now advance to the National competition in May.

Phone-a-thon Appreciation! Many thanks to all the volunteers from various Academic Booster teams who came to TJ to help with the annual Phone-a-thon in early February. We are thrilled to report that 120 families have now joined the rank of 'Academic Booster Member' to support our different teams' activities!

Academic Booster Board meetings are held monthly and are open to all. The next meeting is March 15, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 106. Details of the meetings are available in the Academic Boosters calendar at <http://academics.tjhsst.edu/aboosters/>.

Band Boosters

TJ Winter Guard kicked off the 2011 season on February 5 with an exciting trip to Richmond, where they participated in the Winter Guard International competition. On February 12, TJ Winter Drum Line and Winter Guard took second and third places in the Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA) competition at Broad Run High School. Come see both units perform at TJ on Saturday, March 19, when we host an AIA competition we call "Winter Showcase." The shows are really fun to watch this year!



2011 Winter Guard (front: **Rachel Song, Joyce Su, J Lee, Kristy Shin, Valerie Nguyen**; rear: **Nick Allegro, Bobby Ends, Catherine Witherspoon, Alana Whitman**).

Please visit our tjbands.org website for more information about Winter Showcase and the final Citrus Sale of the year. The website has been updated to include pictures and a video from the drum line/color guard competition at Potomac Falls

High School. Just click on "Pictures" or "Videos" and look for links to Winter Drum Line Pictures, Winter Guard Pictures, and WDL at Potomac Falls (video).

Colonial Athletic Boosters (CAB)
www.colonialathletics.org

As we wrap up the winter season and look forward to spring sports, please take a minute to think about joining CAB. Each school year TJ fields 46 teams in 17 sports at the freshman, JV and varsity levels. It takes about \$120,000 annually, beyond what Fairfax County provides, to fund TJ athletics. CAB memberships, along with gate receipts and concessions, are the primary sources for this funding.

Free Pass to all TJ Regular Season 2011 Spring Home Games

when you join Colonial Athletic Boosters at Silver membership level or above.

Spring Team Membership Contest

When you join, your son or daughter's coach gets one step closer to winning \$500 to buy any equipment/supplies to help bring home that championship. The prize will be awarded to the first spring team to reach a 90% membership level. Membership forms are available at www.colonialathletics.org or in the AudLob, outside the Activities office.

Winter Sports Awards and Banquet

Thursday, March 3, 6:00 p.m.

A flyer can be found at end of this newsletter or by clicking [here](#).

SPORTS PHYSICALS-SAVE THE DATE!!

Get out your planners and book your appointment now for Wednesday, June 8, to get your student's annual sports physical at TJ. The Colonial Athletic Boosters and the Athletic Trainers are coordinating this popular at-school event to ensure that our athletes are ready for the 2011-2012 season.

Medical professionals will perform the comprehensive physicals. The screening will check height, weight, body fat, vision, posture, vital signs, and

upper and lower body assessments. Everyone will see the medical professional for clearance. Every athlete needs a new physical EVERY SCHOOL YEAR, so save a trip to the doctor's office and come out and support TJ Athletics. Call (703) 750-8387 with any questions.

Volunteers Needed for Physicals!

We need medical and non-medical parents to help make the sports physicals a successful event! If you are a TJ parent and a physician (MD or DO), physician's assistant (PA), physical therapist (PT) or nurse practitioner (NP), please consider helping out with physicals on June 8. We also need non-medical parents who want to help with working a station or check-in/out desk. Last year this fundraiser provided over \$10,000 in support of our various sports programs. Your expertise and a few hours of your time will greatly benefit our TJ athletes! **Free advertising for medical professionals that help!** If you are willing to volunteer, please email Heather Murphy at [heather.murphy at fcps.edu](mailto:heather.murphy@fcps.edu).

And now for the team news...

Boys Varsity Basketball: The team ended a very exciting season with an 11-11 overall record, 7-7 in the District. Fellow teammates and Monticello Maniacs provided the senior players, **Daniel Barnes, Nick Babyak, Brendan Corbett, Arjun Chavern, Peter Hansen and Aaron Williams**, with an enthusiastic farewell during their last home game, a 66-46 win over the Marshall Statesmen.



Seniors are honored prior to the game against Marshall HS.

Congratulations to **Richard Kuzma**, who was named First Team All-District, **Daniel Barnes**, who made Second Team All-District, and **Aaron**

Williams, who was named Liberty District All-Defensive Team. Rookie coach **Mark Gray-Mendes** and his Colonial boys varsity team have much to be proud of.

Boys Freshman Basketball: The team, coached by former TJ parent **Jeff Clubb**, found their groove and ended their season on a hot streak. On February 8, the freshman Colonials finally achieved their longstanding goal: after five weeks of losing by frustratingly small margins, they obtained a serious win versus the Marshall Statesmen. Just one day later, they faced down a powerhouse in Liberty District basketball - the South Lakes Seahawks. Our boys worked incredibly hard and trounced the Seahawks, with a score of 45-41. It was a stunning comeback for the freshman players, who lost by more than 30 points in their first match against the Seahawks, and, of course, the Jefferson community was elated to hear of this win. The Colonials had their last game versus the Madison Warhawks; sadly, however, the streak ended. The boys are very proud of their strong finish to the season and will be working hard off-season as they prepare to earn their spots on the JV team.



The boys freshman basketball team with first-year coach **Jeff Clubb**.

Girls Varsity Basketball: In spite of their win-loss record, the Lady Colonials fought hard and played well against many tough teams. The heartbreaking OT loss to Langley was tough, leaving one of our strong players with a season-ending injury. Senior Night was the perfect venue to recognize **Taylor Enders, Shannon Eriksson, Maren Leibowitz** and **Rachel Nissen**. In addition to the usual festivities, we had a special visitor - Ronald McDonald - as Shannon was recognized as one of the 800 finalists for McDonald's All-American team. *Shannon was also named Liberty District Player of the Year.* TJ has been fortunate to have such an outstanding student-athlete! Coach **Victor Chen** was dedicated

to the players, kicking off the season with a "team-building" retreat at Camp Hemlock. It was a great way to introduce new players and form a cohesive group. Coach Chen worked tirelessly with the team, even giving us a scare after one of the home games. Thankfully, he bounced back quickly to continue coaching the remainder of the season.



Shannon Eriksson
- Liberty District Player of the Year

The Lady Colonials have a bright future ahead, with **Morgan Cheatham, Suzie Mueller, Rena Mazur** and the "Freshman Trifecta" - **Hunter Clark, Mary Forburger** and **Care Shoabi** - ready to return next year.

Girls JV Basketball: The team steadily improved over the course of the season, thanks to the hard work of the players and their coach, **Melody Cook**. A strong foundation has been laid for next year's JV and varsity teams. Thanks to the Colonial Athletic Boosters for your support during the season!



Girls JV basketball team enjoying some team bonding.

Dance: As the season comes to an end, we would like to congratulate all 16 team members for their

hard work and dedication. We would also like to give our deepest appreciation to Coach **Melissa Weber**. Our Senior Night was held February 8, along with the varsity boys basketball Senior Night, at their last home game of the year. Best wishes to our two seniors, captain **Su Yeon Son** and co-captain **Lianna Cramer**, in their final year and with their future endeavors beyond TJ. There was terrific energy and lots of student cheering in the packed stands at the team's final performance, which was February 11 at the last girls varsity basketball home game. Many thanks for everyone's support throughout the season!

Gymnastics: In its final 3 regular season meets, the team gained skills and confidence, placing 5th at Robinson, winning the 2nd-place trophy at the Washington-Lee Invitational, and taking 4th at Edison. The girls celebrated their Senior Night at Edison (because our home meet was snowed out) and registered their then-season-high team score of 117.325.

At Districts, the team surged to their best performance of the season with 129.025 points, placing second and qualifying for Regionals. The following girls placed individually at Districts, qualifying for Regionals in their events: **Marisa Kataoka - District Champion** on Vault (9.0), 2nd All-Around (35.225), 4th on Bar (8.325) and Floor (8.9) and 5th on Beam (9.0); **Caroline Kerr** - 3rd on Bar (8.375), 6th on Floor (8.75), 7th on Vault (8.25) and 8th on Beam (8.8) (Caroline also qualified All-Around); and **Katya Davydova** - 7th on Beam (8.85). Other highlights included Katya's Personal Best All-Around, **Hailey Johnson's** PB this season on Beam, **Nikki Pangilinan's** PB on Floor, and **Zophie Quan's** PB on Beam. Other District competitors/events included Hailey on All-Around, **Lizzy Miranda** and **Everi Osofsky** on Vault, Nikki and **Jennifer Wang** on Bar, Lizzy on Floor, and Michelle Gahagan on Beam.

The team scored 128.950 at Regionals, nearly matching their District showing. They faced the top teams in the Northern Region and finished 7th of 8 teams. Highlights included another PB by Hailey on Beam; Marisa's PB All-Around, tied PB on Beam, and PB this year on Bar; Nikki's PBs on Bar and Floor; and Michelle's PB on Beam.



Jefferson gymnastics at Edison HS on Jan 31, 2011.

The team thanks seniors Katya Davydova (captain), Michelle Gahagan, Hailey Johnson (captain), and Nikki Pangilinan and coaches **Pete Novgrod**, **Christina Jones** and **Brad Wasserman** for a great season. More information about the team can be found at: www.colonialathletics.org.

Swim and Dive: Congratulations are due the team for a great job this season, and to those who qualified and competed at last weekend's State AAA Championships in Virginia Beach. The team finished a strong season with boys and girls teams placing fourth in the highly-competitive Liberty District. The boys had an impressive 6-1 record, and the girls were 4-3. TJSD was well-represented at the Northern Region meet, with divers **Emily Saitta** placing 6th and **Kristen Skowronski** 16th. Individual swimmers who qualified and swam in the championship heats were **Stephen Seliskar** (200 free and 100 fly), **Evan McMurray** (100 free), **Katie Bennett** (100 back), **Brianna Kim** (100 fly) and **Sarah Liu** (100 breast), plus every relay.



Girls 200 Medley Relay qualified for Virginia State Championship, left to right: Sophomores **Sarah Liu** and **Katie Bennett**, Seniors **Leah Gonzalez** and **Brianna Kim**.

(article continued on next page)



Boys 200 Medley Relay qualified for Virginia State Championship, left to right: Senior **Evan McMurray**, Junior **Stephen Seliskar**, Sophomore **Reese Frerichs**, Freshman **Miles Oakley**.

Seliskar set a new TJSD team record in the 200 freestyle, breaking his own record from last season. The boys' medley and the 200 freestyle relays, and the girls' medley relay, qualified for States - the girls made it a cliff-hanger by hitting the qualifying cut-time to the 100th second during Regional finals! Individuals who went on to States were swimmers Seliskar, McMurray and Bennett, and diver Saitta (Seliskar in multiple events). Alternates were **Will Bergan, Ron Enson, Jack Borsi, Leah Gonzalez, Catherine Dworak, Aedan Collins and Anna Green**.

State Meet results: After qualifying for the finals in diving, Saitta placed 6th overall, and was named All-American! In the swim competition, 6 team members made finals and finished as follows: Seliskar (3rd in 100m butterfly, 6th in 200m freestyle), McMurray (13th in 100m freestyle), boys 200m medley relay of McMurray, **Reese Frerichs**, Seliskar and **Miles Oakley** (12th), boys 200m freestyle relay of **Jon Spitz**, Oakley, McMurray and Seliskar (9th) and **Bennett** (7th in 100m backstroke). In addition, the girls 200m medley relay of Bennett, Liu, Kim and **Jessica Sun** narrowly missed finals by 0.25, placing 17th at prelims. As for team results, the boys finished 14th overall and the girls were 30th. Fantastic job to everyone!



TJ 2011 AAA State Swimming Championship Team

With only one senior among the individual qualifiers, we are sure to be back strong again next year as well!

Track and Field: Both the girls and boys teams finished eleventh at the Northern Region meet. Congratulations to the 9 team members who competed at the Virginia State AAA Championship in Hampton, VA on February 25-26.

Region results: The girls 4x800m relay team (**Ronit Malka, Sarah Nielsen, Stephanie Marzen and Lisa Junta**) placed 2nd and **Ed Cai** ran the 55m hurdles in 7.84 seconds to claim 2nd place as the top individual place finisher for TJ! Junta and **Kelly Rogers** claimed 3rd and 4th place in the 3200m and **Jacob Zucker** placed 3rd in the 1000m. Also qualifying for States were **Jim Skehan** who finished in 5th place in the pole vault and **Jonathan Phillips** who also earned a 5th place in the 3200m.



Jonathan Phillips placed 5th in the 3200m.

(article continued on next page)



Stephanie Marzen and her 4x800 relay team took 2nd place.

who will very likely compete at the state level the next two years.



Patrick O'Connor scores a reversal in the District Championship match.

Several TJ athletes set their best record in their events but narrowly missed the qualifying cut-off for the State meet. They include **Tania Ermak** who jumped a season best of 33'6" in the girls triple jump to finish 8th, **Mary Kim Weidman** who also posted a season best of 31'5.5" in the girls triple jump to finish 11th, **Sarah Nielsen** who set another PR in the 1000m in 3:09.03 to finish 9th, **Sean Long** (11') and **Billy Chen** (10'6") who both set PRs in the boys pole vault, and **Michael Wattendorf** who set a PR (4:40.11) in the 1600m for 11th place.

The team said farewell to their seniors at our only home meet - captains **Myles Cook, Will Pyrak** and **Jeremy Weller; Daniel Kang, Daniel Yoo, Julian Whitman** and manager **Trami Pham**. The team also thanks managers **Minh Bui** and **Virginia Wordsworth**; assistant managers **Joowon Choi, Kathy Shi** and **Jane Hu**; and coaches **Clint Behling** and **James Pilkington**.

Special thanks to Coaches **James, Grimsley** and **Withington** for all of their leadership and support!

JV Wrestling: The 2010-11 team included several returning wrestlers from last year along with some new faces, both freshmen and upperclassmen. They completed their season on January 24 at the Liberty District JV competition, where they celebrated the following successes: Wrestlers with three wins were juniors **Victor Weiss** and **Paul Wolfteich** and senior **Julian Whitman**. With two wins each were juniors **Collin Jones** and **Reece Anderson** and sophomore **Paul Bentz** (and Collin's were both pins!!). With one win each were junior **Kerry Zhang** and freshman **Taylor Yohe**. Coaches **Behling** and **Pilkington** will continue to develop new talent in 2011-12.

Varsity Wrestling: Over the last month TJ wrestlers competed in District, Regional and State championships. At the District tournament at McLean HS, sophomore **Patrick O'Connor** placed first at 189 lbs, pinning his opponent in the championship bout. Also medaling and qualifying for Regionals were seniors **Jeremy Weller** (3rd, 112 lbs) and **Daniel Yoo** (3rd, 135 lbs), junior **Peter Reischer** (3rd, 215) and sophomore **Thuc Tran** (4th, 152).

Crew Boosters

At the Regional meet, O'Connor continued his run, and despite getting injured during his final match, he finished 4th and qualified for the State tournament. Also making strong showings were Reischer (215lb), who made it to the round of eight and seniors Weller and **Will Pyrak** (160 lbs), who made it to the round of twelve. After a one-year absence from the State Championships, TJ was represented by O'Connor. While he didn't place, this was a tremendous experience for a sophomore



Spring practice on the water began in February. Athletes are travelling to Sandy Run Regional Park for daily training. TJ Crew held its second annual Ergathon in the TJ Cafeteria on February 14 - our team rowed a total of a million meters on the ergometers to raise money for the team and for charity. Our first regatta, the Polar Bear Regatta, is scheduled for March 26 on the Occoquan, for the upper boats. Regatta season continues in April and May.

Choral Boosters



Congratulations to **Adrienne Doebrich** and **Margaret Coad** who were selected to the **2011 Virginia All-state Chorus** as alternates! In

other exciting news, TJ students are establishing two new extracurricular choirs. **Lauren Bomgardner** established the **TJ Service Choir** to serve the community through music. **Zophie Quan** is holding auditions for the **tjShowChoir**. Both are wonderful additions to the choral community and we look forward to future performances.

Molly Khatcheressian, TJ Choral Director, is calling for the TJ community to join the first **TJ Faculty & Parent Choir**. No singing experience is needed; just attend a few rehearsals in March. The **TJ Faculty & Parent Choir** will be featured during the **TJ Singers Festival Concert** on Thursday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the TJ Auditorium. Admission is free and refreshments will be served!

For more information on the **TJ Faculty & Parent Choir**, please see:

www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/fa/choir/pages/parentchoir.html.

For more information on upcoming events, go to www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/fa/choir/.

Orchestra Boosters

The next orchestra presentation will be the Pre-Festival Concert at TJ on March 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the TJ Auditorium. The same pieces will be performed by our superb orchestra groups at the Festival itself, at Fairfax High School on Saturday, March 19. District XI Orchestra Festival is an annual event at which each school presents its orchestras for public adjudication. Parents, friends and family are encouraged to attend as the Festival performance is open to the public and free of charge. Each group has a different arrival and performance time -- please check with your student.

Looking ahead, those who successfully auditioned for All-State Orchestra will participate in that event in Charlottesville on April 9. Following All-State will be the Solo and Ensemble Festival at Irving

Middle School on April 29 (optional for students), and the Spring Trip to Orlando, April 27 through May 1. The Orlando trip is measuring up to be a very exciting event, with an adjudicated performance at a select venue. Many thanks to the chaperones who will be accompanying the students and **Ms. Bailey** on this trip.

Please consider how you may assist the Boosters -- we have an immediate need for a Co-Hospitality Chair to assist with the post-concert receptions. There are only two concerts remaining. With so many committed orchestra parents supporting their students, we hope that one or two of you will feel motivated to step forward and give your time, your energy, and your talents to your student's orchestra experience. Our next Booster's meeting will be Tuesday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Principal's Conference Room. Please join us. And on behalf of the Booster Executive Board, we appreciate your on-going support of the program.

Theatre Boosters (Shakespeare and Drama)

TJ's 24th Annual Knight of One Axe was a great success. Thank you to all the students who participated and to all the parent volunteers.

Parent volunteers are needed to help at *Shakespeareance*! On March 5, TJ students run workshops at which children can learn about Shakespeare and acting. The event is held at TJ and is free. We need chaperones to help manage the event, with no obligations before or after the event date itself. *Shakespeareance* will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with check-in at 8:00/8:30 a.m. and clean-up following the event, until 4:00 p.m. Even half a day can help us, with shifts from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you have questions regarding this event or can help, then please send an e-mail to [tjshakespeareance at gmail.com](mailto:tjshakespeareance@gmail.com).

Mark your calendars...*The Crucible* will be performed on April 8 and April 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

The next Theatre Boosters meeting is March 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Announcements

Turn Trash Into Ca\$h for Our School!

If you've been in the office, you might have noticed the huge stack of laser cartridges and other recyclables along one wall. Don't be deceived by its appearance; those recyclables have saved TJ around \$15,000 over the last several years. Every week, we cart those items to various office supply stores, such as Staples and Office Depot, and get a few dollars of store credit for each cartridge.

Thanks to your support throughout the years, we've never had to leave with our hands empty. I hope everyone continues to spread the word and drop off your empty printer cartridges and used cell phone in the office or the library.



Three years ago, hundreds of recycling items were piled up in our garage. Thousands of trash items were turned into cash *for TJ PTSA*.

I'm a senior who intends to graduate, so my mother and I won't be around next year to help. Therefore, I'd like to ask any volunteers who want to keep this great program going to contact either her ([linb02 at hotmail.com](mailto:linb02@hotmail.com)) or me ([Richard.qin2011 at gmail.com](mailto:Richard.qin2011@gmail.com)) with any questions or clarifications on how to help. You may also contact Mrs. Christie Man or pick up a green flyer in the office on the shelf behind the door. Remember, this program has

yielded a lot of results and it would be wonderful to keep it going. [Richard Qin, Recycling Coordinator]

Recycle old electronics through TJeCycle

Do you have old electronics sitting around taking up space? Don't throw them away! Many of the precious metals in computers, cell phones, radios, and other electronics are very harmful to the environment. Instead of simply tossing these old devices, recycle them through TJeCycle! TJeCycle is a new program starting up at TJ that works with Fairfax County to recycle electronic devices and keep the harmful materials out of landfills. Bring electronics to the TJeCycle closet in Gym 2. Questions? Email [tjecycle at gmail.com](mailto:tjecycle@gmail.com) or contact Michael Cooper at (703) 450-0321. Happy eCycling!

Lions Club International Recycle for Sight

Give others the gift of sight by donating your used eyeglasses to the Lions Club! Drop off any usable eyeglasses in the marked box in the Library hallway. Contact Pat Groves at [gpgroves at fcps.edu](mailto:gpgroves@fcps.edu), with any questions.

Relay for Life

Relay for Life will be held this year on May 21, 2011 at TJ. Join in the fight against cancer, celebrate, and remember with the community the lives that have been touched or taken by cancer. Registration and fundraising have already begun! If you are interested, please sign-up at www.alexandriayouthrelay.org. If your company is interested in becoming a sponsor and receiving recognition at the event, please contact Katie Bailey at [tjrelayforlife at gmail.com](mailto:tjrelayforlife@gmail.com). Thanks!

Noteworthy Dates

March 2011	April 2011
2 Presentation on Cyber Bullying, 6:45pm in Library	1 End of 3rd Quarter
2 PTSA Meeting, 7:30pm in Library	4 Student Holiday -- Teacher Workday
3 Winter Sports Awards, 6pm in Cafeteria	4 Driver Education Parent/Student Required Meeting, 6:30pm in Lecture Hall
5 Partnership Fund Phone-a-thon, 1:30pm in Cafeteria	7 PTSA Meeting, 9:30am in Cafeteria
7 Meet the Coaches Night, 7pm in Auditorium	8 Spring Show Performance, 7pm in Auditorium
8-11 English 11 SOL Writing	9 Techstravaganza, 12:30pm in Gym I, II
8 Community-Wide Renovation Meeting, 7pm in Career Center	9 Spring Show Performance, 7pm in Auditorium
8 Orchestra Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Principal's Conference Room	12 ANGP Meeting, 6:30pm in Career Center
9 Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center	12 Orchestra Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Principal's Conference Room
9 Band Concert, 7pm in Auditorium	12 Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library
9 Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library	13 Freshman Review, 5pm in Auditorium, Gym I, II
10 Crew Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center	14 Crew Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
11 Mr. Colonial, 7pm in Gyms 1 & 2	18-22 SPRING BREAK
15 ANGP Meeting, 6:30pm in Library	26 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Room 106
15 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Room 106	27 Choral Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Choral Room
16 Orchestra Concert, 7pm in Auditorium	28 College Panel Night, 7:30pm in Auditorium
16 Choral Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Choral Room	30 Hands on Science Day, 10am in Gym I, II
17 Choir Concert Pre-Festival, 7pm in Auditorium	
18 Buleria, the Spanish Honor Society's Annual Salsa Dance, 5:30pm in Cafeteria	
19 Band Winter Showcase, 8am in Auditorium	
22 Safe Community Coalition Program: Responding to "Race to Nowhere," 7pm at Langley HS Auditorium	
25 Citrus Fruits Sales & Distribution, 10am-1pm in Band Room	
28 Theatre Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library	
28 Northern Virginia District PTSA Board Meeting, 7pm in Career Center	

TJ Winter Sports Banquet & Awards

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Attention all Athletes, Parents, Guardians, and Coaches:

The Colonial Athletic Boosters of Thomas Jefferson High School cordially invite you the 2011 Winter Sports Banquet & Awards on Thursday, March 3, 2011 in the TJ Cafeteria.

Dinner Menu and selections:

- Baked Meat Lasagna or Baked Ziti (vegetarian choice)
- Tossed Salad
- Rolls
- Cookies and Brownies
- Soda and water included

Dinner Cost: \$10.00 per person WITH RESERVATIONS. In order to get an accurate count of those who will attend and order the necessary quantities of food, RESERVATIONS for the dinner must be made in advance. Those with reservations should arrive between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. If the food supply allows, dinner may be purchased at the door after 6:30 p.m. at a cost of \$12.00 per person.

Those attending only the ceremony should arrive by 7:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE of Events:

- Dinner with reservation 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Dinner w/o reservation After 6:30 p.m., food permitting
- Ceremony begins 7:00 p.m.
- Team breakouts follow ceremony



IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND the dinner, PLEASE COMPLETE the tear-off section below and return with payment no later than Monday, February 28th.

Athlete's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Number of Dinners: Baked Lasagna: _____ Baked Ziti: _____ at \$10.00/Dinner: Total: \$_____

Please indicate if you are a TJ coach and plan to join us for a complimentary dinner
Make checks payable to **Colonial Athletic Boosters.**

Return in person or by mail no later than **Monday, February 28th,**
to the athletics office, next to the AudLob.

TJHSST CAB, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22312

Questions: Contact Carrie Gahagan at cgahagan1@aol.com



LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA FAMILY NETWORK
AND

SAFE COMMUNITY COALITION PRESENT

Responding to Race to Nowhere

The documentary, Race to Nowhere, showed the “dark side of America’s achievement culture” and left us wondering how we can effectively help our kids manage the stress described.

Join us for a discussion on the balance of academics, extracurriculars, and social stresses during the fast-paced, high-pressure years of high school lead by

DR. WILLIAM STIXRUD, Ph.D.

Dr. Stixrud, a well-known local clinical neuropsychologist, presented to a packed-house last year on the teenage brain. Come hear his ideas and strategies for ways that we can help our teens and our families achieve balance.

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2011
PLACE: Langley HS Auditorium
6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean
TIME: 7:00pm-9:00pm



I-NIGHT



(Thanks to Noah Yoo for all these terrific photos.)