

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Students,

We enter a very festive month with opportunities to see concerts in choir, band, and orchestra, and also a chance to see the start of our winter sports season. You will see me participate as a pirate and a policeman on one of these occasions. It's no longer homecoming week, so can you guess which one? Please check the [online calendar from our homepage](#) for more details about upcoming events.

The holiday season is also a time of thanks. I want to thank our teachers for their countless hours of dedication to ensure TJ is a challenging environment. Our counselors add a nurturing element that helps our students get through the "bumps" in the road, guiding them to success. I want to thank our students for their boundless energy and willingness to take risks in their thinking so they can pursue innovative opportunities that stretch our curriculum every day. I want to thank our administrators and support staff for working behind the scenes, ensuring that problems are addressed in a timely manner and taking care of our community through friendliness and professionalism. I want to thank our parents for standing by our students, 24-7, making sure they have a home environment that supports their needs, and also caring for our teachers through their thank-you letters and homemade treats. While not necessary, if you decide to provide a gift to a teacher, please keep it under \$25, or if you wish to contribute more, consider providing a donation to the school for supplies. It warms my heart that every person in our community contributes to making TJ a very special place.

I would also like to thank the Fairfax County taxpayers for approving the recent capital improvement bond, enabling the renovation project to go to bid in the next few months. Construction will begin in 2013 with new additions, then later, redesign

of the interior, and then completion in 2016. The project plans can be seen outside of our Audlob (Auditorium Lobby), and the 40% increase in space raises lots of curiosity: interdisciplinary spaces, a new research wing, commons areas for projects, open courtyard spaces, lunch locations around the building, a black box theater with TV studio, a 3D art gallery, cubby holes rather than lockers, and more! The opportunity to renovate TJ has been a great gift, and we want to make sure the facility is well equipped with research tools, technology infrastructure, and furniture to support our innovative environment. Please visit the [TJ Partnership Fund website](#) to learn how you can support this exciting project and set a foundation for educational excellence into the future.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season with family and friends, filled with enjoyment and rest so you feel recharged into the new year.

Sincerely,

Evan Glazer
Principal, TJHSST



THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



President's Message

Happy holidays and congratulations on being a member of a very fortunate community that will at some point in the future (about 30 months from the time that construction begins) enjoy coming back to a completely renovated TJ!! This is exciting news for all of us, especially for our future students and teachers! We are so grateful to everyone who helped to get TJ on the Bond Referendum as well as those who will facilitate our new school's vision becoming a reality.

Our November 4 PTSA Coffee with **Principal Glazer** was well attended and included a variety of topics. A big "thank you" goes to 1st Vice President Celeste Fritzson for doing a wonderful job running the meeting for me as my family visited our oldest son in Pasadena, CA for Parents Weekend at Caltech. Since the meeting, however, there has been a change to the School Board's position on when they will be voting on a recommendation to adopt Policy 8614.5, Interior Surveillance Cameras in FCPS High Schools. The policy will now be introduced during their meeting on December 1 as new business and it will be voted on December 15. It will most likely be approved based on feedback from 25 high school PTSAs, where 68% supported the idea of interior surveillance cameras. Additionally, two current School Board members will bring this up for discussion with the new School Board, regardless of the December 15 vote outcome. To make sure that the School Board members have had a chance to view our PTSA survey, I sent our results and a highlight summary of your comments to Sandy Evans, who represents the Mason District (which includes TJ), and to Janie Strauss, the School Board Chairperson.

It's important to note that the policy will not require the installation of cameras, but rather would allow principals, with the support of their respective communities, to install surveillance cameras only in those areas of the school where they would be the most helpful and needed. To see the proposal, [click here](#). The proposal includes the School Board's rationale, and a list of pros and cons (found in the Community Dialogues on Surveillance Cameras portion). Please keep in mind that if Principal Glazer (along with the support of our community) chooses to install cameras at TJ, it won't be until after the renovation is completed in 2016.

As reported last month, results from our own community-wide survey revealed that our parent community was almost evenly split, (53% against and 47% for), along with our teachers having a 50/50 split. The students were overwhelmingly against cameras with a 90/10 split. Having read all of your comments, I can tell you that opinions are strong both for and against cameras, but in the end, it looks like it will be up to Dr. Glazer, with our input as well, regarding what happens at TJ. If this issue is of interest to you, I encourage you to attend the December 1st School Board meeting and stay informed. You may also want to speak with Loudoun County parents to get their feedback, since their high schools already have interior surveillance cameras. Principal Glazer has seen all of your responses from our PTSA survey, but I'm sure he'll welcome any additional comments as well.

In case you missed the November PTSA meeting, Vinay Bhargava and **Sean Burke** spoke about a new service, which is currently being offered free-of-charge, to all TJ families. Vinay is CEO and Co-Founder of Mytonomy, Inc. Sean is the other founder, but continues to work full-time at his favorite job, being a TJ counselor! Mytonomy is a "catalog of video and written testimonials from students who have recent and/or relevant experience in making decisions about what college to attend, what major to pick, and more broadly, what career path to consider." Think of it as "video on demand counseling," with many of the contributors being TJ alums.

There are over 800 videos on the site, including topics such as: how to find the right college, how to make the college visit work for you, and how to write a good college essay, plus many more questions crafted with input from focus groups of past TJ students and parents. If you would like more information on Mytonomy, please check out their website at www.mytonomy.com. Other high schools using Mytonomy include Palo Alto HS and the SEED School of DC, plus schools in Detroit and Rochester.

During the month of November, the PTSA also celebrated the success of our students with several important events including receptions for the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, the National Merit Semi-Finalists Program, and the Academic Letter Awards. A huge "thank you" goes out to organizers Yun Pang, Pam Cooper, Ann Nguyen, Poonam Nangalia, and all of the volunteers and

donors who supplied food for these fabulous receptions enjoyed by the parents and their students!

Our **PTSA Faculty Allocations Committee (FAC)** and Chairman Jeff Steele, will be presenting faculty “wish list” requests for approval during our December 8 PTSA meeting. Per Jeff, “The FAC reviews requests for funding support and makes recommendations to the PTSA. The most common things that we funded in my first year on the committee were fees for scholarly meetings and conferences. Last year, FCPS central administration threw us a curve ball by banning FCPS employees from going to out-of-area events – even if FCPS wasn’t paying for any part of it! This made no sense to us, so we tried to find other things we could do for the TJ faculty and staff. We bought professional books for faculty members. We bought large quantities of high quality molecular models to accommodate the increased number of students studying large biological macromolecules. We bought a series of classic ancient texts for the Latin teachers. When FCPS canceled its tuition assistance program, we picked up partial reimbursement for classes varying from education school graduate school to orchestral and choral conducting. We funded honoraria for visiting poets and other visiting speakers. We also bought a software license for advanced mathematical calculations. Probably the most rewarding part of serving on the committee has been the gratitude expressed by so many faculty members. I may receive the letters and emails, but they are really intended for all of the PTSA members and officers!”

A huge thanks to Jeff and his committee for working so hard on our community’s behalf and thanks to all of you as well, because we couldn’t do it without your support!

Speaking of support... As you hopefully know or have experienced first-hand by now, our membership dues help to support TJ and your student(s) in countless ways which play an important role in creating a rich and stimulating learning environment at TJ. PTSA membership dues are one of our major sources of funding. Currently, we have about 900 members – if you are among the 900, thank you!! And remember, it’s never too late to join! Please consider joining and supporting the PTSA by **clicking here**, or by using the form at the end of the newsletter. (And please don’t forget to use the Amazon icon on

the PTSA home page when ordering your holiday gifts!)

LIBRARY WISH LIST PROGRAM -- The TJ Library would like to update its print collection to offer a variety of classics, contemporary literature, and new nonfiction books for our students. With the past budget cuts, it is more difficult to purchase the updated resources our students need, so the PTSA has established a TJHSST Library Wish List on **Amazon.com**. If you purchase an item from the Wish List, please email the librarian, Anne Applin, at **aeapplin@fcps.edu**. Your support of the TJ Library is greatly appreciated!

8TH PERIOD BADGED VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES -- Volunteers are still needed to supervise computer labs or study halls during 8th period to free up staff who can then sponsor clubs or other activities. You can help out weekly or biweekly on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:50 to 3:50 p.m. or Mondays from 2:50 to 3:50 p.m. You can also get trained to work in the 8th period office itself! As an added bonus, you’ll also get a professional-looking FCPS Volunteer badge! Please contact Sherrie Burson, **volunteerfor8th@gmail.com**, or at (703) 506-1819 for more details.

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

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

Finally, please join us at our next PTSA meeting on Thursday, December 8, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the TJ Library. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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

~~ Denise Bunting
TJ PTSA President
Bunting.denise@gmail.com

PTSA Update

Diversity Committee Speakers Series

As part of its Speakers Series, the TJPTSA Diversity Committee will hold presentations from notable scientists every other month for the remainder of the school year. With the assistance of **Dr. Andrea Cobb** and other TJ staff members, the Diversity Committee held its first presentation on November 9, 2011, during 8th Period. The speaker was Dr. Cullen R. Buie, an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The title of his presentation was High Sensitivity Insulator Based Dielectrophoretic Phenotyping of Bacteria. In his presentation, Dr. Buie noted that the MIT Laboratory for Energy and Microsystems Innovation (LEMI), under his direction, explores the use of electrokinetics to solve problems in microbiology, materials science, and microfluidics. Electrokinetics deals with the motion of particles and fluids under the action of an applied electric field. LEMI utilizes electrokinetics in a diverse array of fields, from creating superhydrophobic surfaces to the characterization of pathogenic bacteria.

Approximately 30 TJ students attended Dr. Buie's presentation.



Dr. Buie presents on High Sensitivity Insulator Based Dielectrophoretic Phenotyping of Bacteria.

For additional information on upcoming presentations of the Diversity Committee Speakers Series, please visit the **[TJ Diversity Committee webpage](#)**.

Landscape Committee

November belonged to the Cultivators of the Earth 8th period club. With their help we made the second round of cleanup in the gardens and pruned the dead limbs from the native Hawthorne trees. This month the Cultivators of the Earth and the Greenhouse Club met to join forces to clean up and develop the Greenhouse Courtyard; we hope to make it a place where students can enjoy a green environment.

If you, or your student, would like to join us in enriching the landscape of our TJ campus, watch our website for weekend gardening efforts, or join the Cultivators of the Earth, B block every Friday.

Recycling Committee

Program Update and Request for Help!

In case you are not aware, TJ earns free money from the recycling program where we collect used inkjet and laser toner cartridges, and recycle them via Staples. The Staples Free money program rewards \$2 per ink cartridge with a limit of 10 per customer per month. A big thanks to the families who have already volunteered and helped with the program. Last year, this program brought in thousands of dollars in Staples coupons, which greatly benefited many of the PTSA committees as well as TJ.

The program has enjoyed a smooth start in the first quarter. However, we could use more help! We need parents to pick up and bring the used cartridges to Staples monthly. We especially need more used ink cartridges to recycle. We also recycle used cell phones through GRC Wireless Recycling which greatly benefits TJ. You can help by bringing the used cartridges and cell phones from your home and office and donating them to school. The items can be dropped off at the front office.

Please support this effort and participate in the Recycling program. Not only you are helping our school but you are also saving our environment. Please feel free to contact Jing Zhu at [jingzhu.1999 at yahoo.com](mailto:jingzhu.1999@yahoo.com) or Catherine Chuang at [rcchuang at yahoo.com](mailto:rcchuang@yahoo.com) with any questions you may have. We will help you get started. Thanks in advance for anything you can do.

Volunteer Corner

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who helped us grade the Myers Briggs exam. We had a lot of fun and gained some insight into the wonderful variety of personality types that make up our special TJ student body! Occasionally during the school year we need volunteers for special events such as the Myers Briggs; however, many of our volunteers assist on an ongoing basis throughout the year. As a volunteer, you can help our school on a monthly, weekly, daily or hourly basis, whichever best fits your schedule! If you have time every week or every other week, consider helping out in the front or attendance offices or with 8th period. Free at lunch? There is an opportunity to help then as well! TJ will be glad to put any special skills you have to good use in the school clinic or as an accountant auditing the books for a booster or PTSA group, for example. We can use chaperones, drivers, gardeners – the list is extensive.

No matter what type of volunteer assignment you choose – you can be sure that your help and participation will be greatly appreciated by the school and fulfilling for you. Please check out all the volunteer opportunities at the [TJPTSA Volunteer Committee webpage](#) or [sign up online](#). Thank you! Rajni Goel (Anu 2013), Lakshmi Bala (Nithin 2014) and Nancy Roodberg (Ben 2013). Feel free to contact us at [ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.volunteers@tjhsst.edu).

The **After-School Library Program** is still in need of volunteers. For information, please contact Gail Brodfuehrer at [GBrodfuehrer at verizon.net](mailto:GBrodfuehrer@verizon.net).

Items of Immediate Interest

TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair updates!

Students and parents should be aware of two aspects of the 2012 fair that could affect plans for entry. Each year, 22 projects are chosen at the TJ fair to compete at the Regional Science and Engineering Fair where they have the opportunity to be awarded prizes, scholarship monies, and invitations to the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). In addition to these 22 slots, Siemens and Intel Science Talent Search semi-finalists whose projects conform

to ISEF rules are also invited to the regional competition.

Even though the Regional Fair is affiliated with the ISEF, it is not the only pathway to this prestigious competition. There is a Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair that is also affiliated with ISEF and sends students as well. In order to be invited to the state competition, one must earn a first place award at the Regional Fair.

This year, **in order for a TJ student to participate in the Regional Fair, he or she must promise to compete in the State Fair if invited.** It should be noted that the State Fair will be held at Old Dominion University in Norfolk on Friday and Saturday, April 6 and 7, during the FCPS Spring Break. Therefore, students who cannot commit to participating in the Norfolk competition on those dates will not advance to the Regional competition no matter what award they receive at the TJ fair.

Also, because of conflicts with major regional science competitions on the traditional first Saturday in February, **TJ will hold its science fair on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, February 8.** Saturday, February 11 will be the “snow date” in case of a weather event on February 8.

Students will set up during A Block of 8th period and show their projects to the public and to fellow students who sign up to visit during B Block. Judging will take place after school is dismissed. No visitors are allowed in the fair during judging.

Participating students who rely on bus transportation will need to arrange for an alternate way to get home after the competition, which is expected to end by 7:30 p.m. Details will be posted on Blackboard for student competitors.

Awards will be announced on Friday, February 10.

Free Money \$\$\$



With your help, holiday shopping generally makes December the biggest month of the year for the [Amazon.com](#) free money program. When we exceed certain thresholds of spending, it increases the overall percentage commission we are paid! Please be sure to

do all of your 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)

All Night Grad Party – Discounted Ticket Deadline Approaching!

Senior Parents -- We know you and your senior are busy getting college applications done, but don't add to your senior year costs by missing out on buying discounted ANGP tickets! Last year, over 95% of the senior class attended ANGP. You KNOW your child will want to be at ANGP, so make sure you buy your ticket before the end of the year. Tickets cost \$100 now, but will increase to \$125 after Senior Night on January 18! **BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY at: TJ ANGP 2012 - Tickets.**

DONATE!!

Honor your student as a member of the Class of 2012 with a Donation to ANGP and include a personal dedication. All donations are tax-deductible and go directly to defray the costs of the party. We are hoping to receive 100% participation from the families of the Class of 2012!

All donations will be recognized on the ANGP 2012 website under Donor Recognition and on the Donor Wall at the ANGP in June.

- **Click here to make an online donation.**
(Scroll down to ANGP Donations.)
- **Click here to write a check, or make a cash or in-kind donation.**

ANGP—Find us on Facebook!

We're on Facebook! To keep up with all the latest news for this year's All Night Grad Party, search for "TJ ANGP 2012" and "like" us.

Student Government Association

Last month we held elections for the freshman class council, and we are happy to announce that the following students have been elected: **Dennis Kim** is president, **Lily Chaw** is vice president, **Parsa Zand** is treasurer, **Jenny Kim** is secretary, **Arthur He** and **Helen Zhang** are cohistorians, and **William Liu** is senator. On behalf of SGA, we would like to congratulate these students! Students who were not elected this year can stay involved and help out the council during 8th period meetings.

SGA has started planning for Winter Chillout, the annual event where students can spend time with friends, eat tasty treats, and listen to various bands play. This is our relaxing holiday event, so be on the lookout for more information; as soon as details are set, we will let you know!

Finally, SGA has paid the Athletic Department for TJ students to attend all the winter sports home games for free! Students can enter the game free of charge if they show their student ID at the gate. We encourage students to come support their friends and classmates in all winter sports!

Academic News

Latin News

Latin Honor Society Serving the Local

Community: *Non nobis solum nati sumus* (We are not born for ourselves alone) says one of Cicero's famous quotes, and this year, Latin students at TJ are taking it to heart. **Mythological pumpkins** created by Latin students in Halloween spirit, featuring such frightening subject matter as "Scylla and Charybdis" and "Ajax having been impaled" were **donated to both the Leewood Nursing Home and the Fairfax County John Marshall Library in Rose Hill.**

Continuing the idea of a Halloween theme, Latin students **trick-or-treated for UNICEF** as part of the NJCL's campaign, and raised over \$270 for the cause! Our JCL chapter raised the second largest amount of funds in the entire country for the NJCL Unicef drive! Congratulations! Especially admirable was **Noah Shin's** commitment: he raised over \$80 by driving to three different neighborhoods! Most surprising is the

fact that he wasn't even remunerated with candy!
Now *that's* dedication. The TJ Latin program looks forward to giving back and serving the community throughout the remainder of the year!



Mythological pumpkin making

Spanish News

The National Spanish Honor Society continues the 2011-2012 school year with lots of enthusiasm and projects. “*El Mes de la hispanidad*” was celebrated by honoring the Hispanic community at a special dinner here at TJ. The TJ Jazz Band honored us with a delightful private concert of Hispanic music and everyone declared the buffet of Hispanic dishes the best ever! At the last meeting, *Día de los Muertos* was celebrated and students signed up to help the Spanish teachers with tutoring. As we look toward the holidays, the society is planning to organize a special box of gifts for needy Hispanic families in the area. Holiday caroling through the school is planned for the last meeting before the winter break.

Class News

2012 – Seniors

We hope you had a nice Thanksgiving. One thing we can be thankful for is that our seniors made it through the first quarter – their last first quarter in high school, can you believe it! – and are in the countdown for finishing college applications.

The class officers are still looking for a class speaker for graduation. If you know of someone who would be a good candidate to speak to the graduating class, please contact the class officers, or **Mr. Auerbach**, the class sponsor. You may also contact us at [TJClassof2012 at cox.net](mailto:TJClassof2012@cox.net) and we'll pass the information along.

We want to remind parents that Senior Night is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, January 18.

This evening will provide parents an opportunity to get information about graduation announcements, caps and gowns, and other June-related information. All-Night Grad Party tickets may be purchased, along with TJ merchandise to provide mementos of our Seniors' years at TJ. Vendors from Balfour will be there, as well as PTSA representatives. Please be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend.

We remind you again that lots of volunteers are needed for the All Night Grad Party. Planning for this event is already underway. There is a separate article in the newsletter on the ANGP, so take a look at it and see where you can assist.

Our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

~~ Ann Nguyen ([ann.hl.nguyen at cox.net](mailto:ann.hl.nguyen@cox.net))
Janet Tasker ([jtasker at cox.net](mailto:jtasker@cox.net))
PTSA Class of 2012 Representatives

2013 - Juniors

Greetings Class of 2013! Can you believe it is already December? With the first quarter firmly in the rear view mirror, our students should hopefully have a good idea of what their teachers are expecting from them. Still, first quarter grades can sometimes be a surprise, especially considering the level of intensity of many of the junior courses. Remind your students that it is only ONE quarter and urge them to communicate with their teachers if there are issues related to understanding the material they are studying, and to utilize 8th period review opportunities for additional help should it be necessary. Above all, help them to reduce the overall level of stress in their lives and encourage them to get sufficient sleep, exercise and proper nutrition. The upcoming December holiday will be a welcome break from the regular routine.

Many of our students are also beginning the college investigation process, researching schools and/or making visits to campuses. This can be a very exciting but also challenging time. The good news is there is plenty of time for exploration of what various schools have to offer. TJ has many resources in the College and Career Center and our Student Services personnel are also equipped to help with answering questions from both students and parents.

The Class continues to have successful fund raising events. On November 19 we hosted a practice SAT sponsored by Kaplan Testing LLC and nearly 200 students participated. Kaplan will conduct a test review and strategies session on December 1 at TJ from 7:00-8:00 p.m. for those that took the practice test. A second practice SAT will be held on January 14, 2012. Our class will also host a dance on January 20. We will provide more details next month but will be looking for parent volunteers to assist. The class is continuing to explore the 2nd Annual TJ PiMiler and is working with the freshman class for a race to be held on March 24, 2012.

We wish you and your families a joyous, peaceful and restful holiday season! As always, please feel free to contact either of us should you have any questions.

~~Yun Pang ([yunjungp0201 at gmail.com](mailto:yunjungp0201@gmail.com));
(703) 573-0882
Pam Cooper ([cooperlaw at verizon.net](mailto:cooperlaw@verizon.net));
(703) 450-0321
PTSA Class of 2013 Representatives

2014 – Sophomores

Hope you all enjoyed Thanksgiving! The Class Council has been very busy planning the remainder of the year. Here's the latest:

SPIRIT PACK Orders Due DECEMBER 8. Please see the order form at the end of the newsletter. Make sure to get your '14 sweats and hoodies to ward off the upcoming winter chill!

SAVE THE DATE! February 25 will be TJ's Winter Formal. Please mark your calendars now – we'll be in touch with more details and volunteer information after the break.

Our TJ Grocery Bags are still available, 3 for \$10. They make great gifts!

The Council decided to hold an online auction as a fundraiser this spring. We'll need plenty of interesting treasures to auction. If you have items for donation, or have suggestions on the auction, please contact Class President, **Christine Mayuga**, at [queenstine123 at gmail.com](mailto:queenstine123@gmail.com).

Happy Holidays – enjoy your time together as a family.

~~Amy Shaw ([wyoamy at gmail.com](mailto:wyoamy@gmail.com))
Anita Rezazad ([arezazad at orchidtech.net](mailto:arezazad@orchidtech.net))
Vicki Ruiter ([theruiters at verizon.net](mailto:theruiters@verizon.net))
PTSA Class of 2014 Representatives

2015– Freshmen

Congratulations to students and parents upon the successful completion of our first semester at TJ. Hopefully we are all settling into a routine and finding our “groove.” There's a lot going on, so keep reading and get involved!

Fundraising: As many of you may already know, the classes at TJ begin planning and fundraising in their freshman year for the activities that will be held during their senior year. This pragmatic approach to meeting the financial demand of senior activities helps defray out of pocket expenses and, perhaps more importantly, creates an opportunity for the students to work together outside the classroom. Please encourage your students to get involved and lead by example.

There are also many parent volunteer opportunities.

Freshman Lock-In: The Freshman Lock-In will be April 27, 2012, and we need you! Lock-In is a hugely popular overnight event for freshmen only. There will be a requirement for more than 100 parent volunteers to help make this, the largest freshman fundraising activity, a success. Please contact your class parent liaisons if you are able to help out.

Pi-Miler: The 2nd annual TJ Pi-Miler walk/run is March 24, 2012. The freshmen will be teaming up with the junior class to run this event and your help will be needed. We will be seeking both individual and corporate sponsors, chaperones and other logistical support.

Questions or comments are welcome!

~~ Faye Henris ([faye at henrisff.com](mailto:faye@henrisff.com))
Jim Henris ([jim at henrisff.com](mailto:jim@henrisff.com))
PTSA Class of 2015 Representatives

News Round-up and Awards

TJHSST Students Named Regional Finalists, Semifinalists in Siemens Competition

Four students from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology have been named regional finalists in the 2011 Siemens Competition for Math, Science, and Technology, and nine TJHSST students were named semifinalists. The four finalists are **Yon Jang, Luo Qian, Marvin Qian, and Ye Tao**. The nine semifinalists are **Pritha Bhattacharyya, Rachel Chuang, Nishant Garg, Darwin Li, Karishma Popli, Rithvik Prasannappa, Sameer Singh, Yohan Sumathipala, and Shriram Sundararaman**.

Regional finalists will compete at one of six regional competitions held over three consecutive weekends in November. National finals will be held December 3-5 at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Awards range from \$1,000 for semifinalists to \$100,000 in individual and team categories.

The competition is administered by the College Board and funded by the Siemens Foundation. A record 2,436 students registered to enter the 2011 competition, submitting 1,541 projects.

Journalism Education Association (JEA)/National Scholastic Press Association Awards

TjTODAY was one of just 18 schools in the nation to be recognized with the Newspaper Pacemaker award. (**Rabia Idrees**, editor and **Jennifer Seavey**, adviser).

Two other TJHSST publications were recognized in Best of Show:

Literary Magazine – 3rd Place, *Threshold*
(2011 graduate **Sapir Nachum**, editor, and **Emily Orser**, adviser)

Yearbook 275-324 Pages – 2nd Place, *Techniques*
(2011 graduates **Stephanie Colen, Esha Maharishi**, editors, and **Erinn Harris**, adviser)

Several TJHSST students were recognized in the Write-off competition:

Senior **Rabia Idrees**- Editorial Writing - Excellent
Senior **Colleen Marshall**- Commentary Writing - Excellent

Junior **Priyal Gandhi** - Yearbook Copy/Caption: Student Life - Honorable Mention
Junior **Mallika Patkar**- Newswriting - Honorable Mention

TJHSST Partnership Fund

TJ Partnership Fund: Every Family, Every Year Makes TJ Better and Better

YOUR GENEROUS PARTNERSHIP FUND CONTRIBUTIONS JUST MADE POSSIBLE \$100,000 IN PURCHASES, INCLUDING:

- Solidworks site license for the CAD, Energy Systems, Robotics & Prototyping Labs *so students can learn the CAD program used by most engineering schools.*
- Refrigerated microcentrifuge for the Biotech Lab *so students can isolate DNA, RNA and proteins with minimal breakdown and maximum recovery.*
- Anti-vibration tables for the Neuroscience Lab *to eliminate vibration interference during electrophysiology experiments.*
- Probe for the Oceanography Lab *so students can obtain and store data at the field site to be later uploaded to a computer for analysis.*
- WASPMOTE system for the Communications Lab *so students can use a wireless sensor network for communications research.*
- Solar telescope for the Astronomy Lab *so students may make their own solar observations, which they can then compare to data from online solar databases.*

IMAGINE IF EVERY FAMILY GAVE: If you have never given to the Partnership Fund before, we cannot emphasize enough that your participation, at any level, is meaningful and appreciated. When everyone gives, even small amounts add up fast. Increased parent participation also helps us gain corporate and foundation support. Every TJ student benefits from what the Partnership Fund does for the School, so participating in the PF's Annual Fund Campaign is a great way to show your community spirit. Help us reach our goal of 100% parent participation and write a check today . . . or donate online at www.tjpartnershipfund.org.

MATCHMAKER, MATCHMAKER, MAKE ME A MATCH: Remember to find out whether your employer will match your gift to the Partnership Fund. Many companies with matching programs are listed [here](#). You may also contribute to TJPF through the United Way (8705). Our United Way ratio is an admirable 10.2%.

UNCLE SAM SAYS “GO AHEAD AND SUPPORT TJ”: Did you know that Thomas Jefferson Partnership Fund participates in the Combined Federal Campaign? Every year, dozens of TJ parents employed by the Federal Government take advantage of this convenient method of giving. You can too. Our CFC number is 81947.

HELP PLAN TJ’S NEXT-GENERATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE: The second TJ 2.0 Design the Future workshop, **JCIRN** (Jefferson Collaborative Inquiry and Research Network), is taking place at Cisco’s Herndon offices on December 12. If you or someone at your company has experience in network architecture and is interested in helping to shape TJ’s future, please contact Julie Reiss, PF Corporate Advisory Board Co-Chair, at [pfcab at tjhsst.edu](mailto:pfcab@tjhsst.edu).



Thomas Georgiou, TJ '10, **Benjin Dubishar**, TJ '10, and **Lawrence Diao**, TJ '10, enjoy catching up with each other at TJ’s Alumni Day, held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. For the classes of 2001 and 1991, it was time to celebrate their 10th and 20th reunions, but many alumni from other classes also attended. Partnership Fund volunteers gave lab tours and chatted with alumni about TJ’s upcoming renovation. To hear alumni from various classes talk about the value of their TJ education, visit www.tjpartnershipfund.org.

CONTACT THE PF OFFICE WITH ALL YOUR PF-RELATED QUESTIONS: Ellen Smith, PF Development Manager, can be reached at (703) 750-8317 or at [eesmith at tjhsst.edu](mailto:eesmith@tjhsst.edu).

Thank you for all you do to help TJ provide OUR kids with the BEST OPPORTUNITIES, EQUIPMENT, FACULTY AND SUPPORT!

TJHSST Boosters

Academic Boosters



Academic Boosters welcome TJ Academic Teams’ leaders, part 2

The November Techcetera provided information on student leadership for 2011-2012 for Chess, Forensic speech, Future Problem Solvers, Lincoln-Douglas debate, Public Forum debate, Quizbowl, and the Varsity Math Team. Below is the information we’ve received this month. We hope to share information on the remaining teams next month.

As you consider year-end charitable contributions, we encourage you to join the TJ Academic Boosters to support these terrific teams. It’s easy to join the Academic Boosters by [downloading the membership form or joining online](#). Your contributions are likely to be tax-deductible, and may be eligible for matching funds from your employer.

Certamen

Officers: **Molly Hemenway** and **Hyaee In Seo**

Model United Nations (MUN)

Secretary-General: **Collin Jones**

Undersecretaries-General: **Avi Sachs** and **Varun Kumar**

Senator: **Saniya Suri**

Arbitrator: **Zach Hosseinipour**

Academic Boosters Coordinator: **Kevin Cao**

Activities Coordinators: **Suhas Gondi** and **Connor Hennessey-Niland**

Crisis Czars: **Carson Hotard** and **Daniel Shanker**

Fundraising Coordinators: **Namita Kansal**, **Yena Seo**, and **Varun Jain**

General Meetings Coordinator: **Kyle Angelotti**

Historians: **Rachel Merriman-Goldring** and **Iman Abdikarim**

Secretary: **Romita Mandal**

Treasurers: **Allen Shi** and **Dhruv Bansal**

Webmaster: **Garrett Shapiro**

NASA Student Launch Initiative (SLI)
Safety officer, team leader: **Jonathan Lykins**
CFO: **Eve Chase**
Coordinator: **Karin Lehnigk**
Lead design technician: **Eric Tobin**
Lead electronics technician: **Fareez Chowdhury**

Rubik's Cube
Co-Presidents: **David Weisiger** and **Chris Mercado**

Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC)
Co-presidents: **Jonathan Lykins** and **Megan Clark**
Secretary: **Karin Lehnigk**
Treasurer: **Naomi Naik**
Co-Webmasters: **Fareez Chowdhury** and **Takeshi Mochida**
Historian: **Karina Hemmendinger**

NEWS ABOUT TJ ACADEMIC TEAMS

Debate teams place well at fall tournaments

Lincoln-Douglas: Lincoln-Douglas' first Washington-Arlington Catholic Forensic League (WACFL) debate tournament of the season took place at Battlefield High School. Three TJ Lincoln-Douglas debaters won awards at the tournament. **Kunal Khurana** took fifth place in the varsity division, **Parth Chopra** took fifth place in the JV division (and Parth was the first-place JV speaker), and **Sarah Mohideen** took first place in the novice division. With these excellent performances, all three debaters qualified for the Metro Finals regional tournament in March.

Public Forum: The Public Forum team also competed at WACFL 1 at Battlefield High School. At this competition, the team of **Mencheol Jeong** and **Anthony Uitz** also qualified for the regional tournament next March.

Public Forum also had a strong showing at their WACFL 2 competition, which was held in mid-November at Potomac Falls. Two teams placed among the top scorers. **Usnish Majumdar** and **Vansh Kumar** placed third in JV Public Forum, so they have qualified for the Metro Finals regional tournament in March. In varsity, the team of **Keven Zhang** and **Lauren Huang** placed third, so they have also qualified for the Metro Finals.

Forensic: Congratulations to **Kyle Angelotti** for taking 2nd place in Extemporaneous Speaking at Forensic's WACFL 1 competition at Dominion High School on October 29, and to our competitors **Varun Jain**, Declamation, **Romita Mandal**, Extemp, and **Nidhi Gandhi** and **Nita Takanti**, Duo Interpretation.

The Forensics Team also competed in the WACFL 2 competition on November 12 at King George High School, with Kyle Angelotti receiving 2nd place in Extemporaneous Speaking and 2nd place in Impromptu Speaking. Congratulations also to our WACFL 2 competitors Nidhi Gandhi and Nita Takanti, Duo Interpretation, Nidhi Gandhi, Impromptu, **Anand Prasanna**, Extemp and Impromptu, **Leif Bakke**, Original Oratory, and **Lucas Lin**, Original Oratory. With these performances, Kyle Angelotti qualified for the WACFL Metro Finals competition in March, in both Extemporaneous Speaking and in Impromptu Speaking.

The Forensics Team is now preparing for the George Mason University National Invitational in December.

Congratulations to our TJ debaters for these great showings!!

Certamen (Latin team): On November 5, TJ set out for this year's Classical Cottage Certamen, the second competition of the year. With a Level I team, two Level II teams, a Level III team, and two Upper teams, students met at a central location in the morning and trekked for about two hours to the Powhatan School in Boyce, VA.

The players first competed in three preliminary rounds of 20 toss-up questions, where TJ was randomly pitted with two other teams from across the state. Question subjects covered everything from identifying rhetorical devices in a passage to imitating the living dead, from recalling exact dates of Roman battles to translating Justin Bieber lyrics from Latin into English.

After preliminaries, the three top-scoring teams qualified for the final round. TJ was represented in the finals on every level, taking home a second-place trophy on Level III, and first-place trophies on Levels I, II, and Upper. The students, after their many successes, continue to study hard and prepare for the next Certamen in December!

On November 12, six TJ Certamen players and Ms. Conklin traveled to New Haven, Connecticut to compete in the first annual Champions' League of Certamen Tournament at Yale. Attending the tournament were schools of skilled players from as far away as Florida and Texas. Also in attendance were equally formidable teams from Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey. The questions were expected to be top notch, written jointly by former players at Yale and Harvard, and they did not disappoint.

The two TJ teams cruised to the semifinal rounds, where they faced each other. In a round that will surely not soon be forgotten, the questions flew fast and furious as the TJ teams faced off with one another and with the team from the Boston Latin School. In the end, the Boston Latin School was victorious, but TJ teams emerged with 4th and 5th place titles. The students from TJ had a wonderful time visiting former TJ graduates and Certamen players: **Soonwook Hong** ('09); **Christina Wallin** ('09); **Sharon Yin** ('10); and **Kevin Zhou** ('11).



Hyaee In Seo,
Andrew Coffee,
Molly Hemenway,
Akhila Ananthram



Rachel Goldstein,
Ricky Short

Varsity Math Team: On November 5, the Varsity Math Team hosted over 225 middle school students for the TJ Intermediate Math Open. TJ students wrote all of the problems and coached teams of 6 or 7 students. This was our largest tournament ever and was very successful. We are grateful to Raytheon for the \$3,000 donation that helped make it possible.

The next weekend, 24 Varsity Math Team members traveled to Duke for the Duke University Math Meet. **SeungIn Sohn** placed first in the individual rankings, and all four TJ teams were quite successful. The A team was 4th (only 1.5 points behind the first place team), the B team was 6th and the C team was 9th. The students who participated were: A team -- **SeungIn Sohn, Billy Rieger, Parker Won, Joseph Park, Victoria Xia, and Remy Lee**; B team -- **Veronica Lee, Andrew Tao, Kiffa Conroy, Kristina Hu, Kevin Au, and Allen Shi**; C team -- **Ritwik Anand, Sarthak Sahu, Rohan Banerjee, Richard Wan, Kun Liu, and Jennifer Yin**; and D team -- **Kathy Wu, Lauren Huang, Nalini Singh, Wendy Sun, David Zhao, and Tim Zhong**. Thanks to Mr. Xia, Mr. Sahu, Ms. Weiss, Mr. Hu, and Mr. Zhao for driving, and to faculty sponsor **Ms. Gabriel** for accompanying the team.

On November 19, 24 team members headed to Princeton for the 6th Annual Princeton University Math Competition. This is an extremely challenging contest, which drew students from all over the east coast as well as teams from China, Bulgaria, and Croatia. While we did not experience the same level of team success as at Duke, several students were recognized for their individual performances. In the A division, **SeungIn Sohn** placed 4th in Algebra and 4th in Number Theory, while **Victoria Xia** placed 3rd in Algebra. In the B division, **Thomas Lee** placed 3rd in Geometry and **Kevin Ko** was 5th in Combinatorics.

The students who participated were: A team -- **SeungIn Sohn, Billy Rieger, Parker Won, Joseph Park, Victoria Xia, Yuqing Zhang, Veronica Lee and Remy Lee**; B team -- **Andrew Tao, Kiffa Conroy, Kristina Hu, Kevin Au, Albert Gural, Saketh Are, Alex Dalzell, and William Qian**; and C team -- **Brian Shi, Thomas Lee, Kevin Ko, Ivy Ren, Archis Bhandarkar, Abraham (Yongkoo) Kang, Sreenath Are, and Owen Gray**. Thanks to Mr. Bhandarkar, Mr. Gural, Mr. Conroy, and Mr. and Mrs. Ren for driving, and to faculty sponsor **Ms. Allard** for accompanying the team.

Model United Nations (MUN): One hundred members of TJ's Model United Nations Club attended the William and Mary High School Model United Nations (WMHSMUN) conference in Williamsburg from November 18-20. They were accompanied by their wonderful faculty sponsor, **Senora Pou**, and

several parent volunteers. The team made a great showing, winning the following awards:

School Awards – TJHSST, Outstanding Large Delegation

Individual Awards --

African Union

Outstanding - **Nisha Swarup** and **Carrie Murton** (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Verbal - **Allen Shi** and **Sarah Rachal** (Egypt)

Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)

Outstanding - **Ashrit Bagali** and **Kartik Gupta** (France)

European Union

Outstanding - **Saniya Suri** (France)

Honorable - **Parth Chopra** (Sweden)

Organization of American States

Outstanding - **Chris Groskaufmanis** (Venezuela)

Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian (SOCHUM)

Gavel - **Paris Mitzelfeld** and **Vikram Sardana** (France)

Special Political and Decolonisation (SPECPOL)

Outstanding - **Hari Sridhar** and **Brian Womeldurf** (Republic of Korea)

Verbal - **Aidan Hennessey-Niland** and **Azzez Abdikarim** (France)

Verbal - **Hannah North** and **Sage Teasley** (Egypt)

UN Development Programme (UNDP)

Gavel - **Rachel Merriman-Goldring** and **Garrett Shapiro** (France)

Verbal - **Yash Bhatnagar** and **Sravan Yeluru** (Venezuela)

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Outstanding - **Chantelle Ekanem** and **Chinmayee Balabhadrapatruni** (France)

UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Verbal - **Varun Jain** and **Rahul Majumdar** (Republic of Korea)

Verbal - **Yena Seo** and **Carolyn Ours** (Venezuela)

UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Outstanding - **Aishwarya Nugooru** and **Sreya Atluri** (France)

Honorable - **Jay Hebert** and **Brandon Liu** (Sweden)

World Health Organization (WHO)

Outstanding - **Nishant Garg** and **Wills Johnston** (France)

Honorable - **Avinash Ramesh** and **Shiva Ambardar** (Republic of Korea)

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Gavel- **Avi Sachs** (France)

Ad-Hoc

Outstanding - **Collin Jones** (FARC)

Second Punic War – Roman Command

Gavel – **Carson Hotard** (Publius Cornelius Scipio (Scipio the Elder))

Triple Crisis – Chinese Nationalists

Outstanding - **Romita Mandal** (Lin Sen, President of Republic of China)

Triple Crisis – Chinese Communists

Verbal - **Mayank Jain** (Chen Yun, Leader of Economic Organization Body)

Press Corps

Verbal - **Connor Hennessey-Niland** (The Times of India)

2008 Financial Crisis

Honorable - **Varun Kumar** (Merrill Lynch CEO)

Space Race: USSR Command

Outstanding - **Daniel Shanker** (Mikhail Klavdiyevich Tikhonarvov, Deputy Director of OKB-1)

NCAA Board of Directors

Gavel - **Kyle Angelotti** (Charles Bantz, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis)

Colonial Athletic Boosters (CAB)

www.colonialathletics.org

Thanks to all the families who attended the Fall Sports Banquet – CAB appreciates your support!

We were proud to recognize our student-athletes and coaches for their hard work, perseverance, and good sportsmanship. Congratulations on another successful Fall Sports Season!

At the Banquet, we announced that our total fall membership was 52%, with Cross Country winning our contest by being the first team to reach 90% or more than 50 members, earning \$500 for the team! Varsity Volleyball won the second prize of \$200, by being the next team in line to reach 90% membership.

Memberships begin at \$50/year; higher contributions earn passes to home games and other perks! Join at www.colonialathletics.org, and click on the *Boosters Memberships* tab.

WINTER MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

As we did for the fall teams, we will offer \$500 to the winter team that first reaches 90% membership!!

Food Safety Workshop

A special food safety workshop session has been arranged by the Fairfax County Health Dept. for the TJ community on December 14, 7- 8:30 p.m., in the TJ Library. If you can spare the time please plan to attend – and expect to learn surprising food practice tips ranging from outdoor grilling to popcorn popping (not just TJ Concessions duty). The monthly CAB meeting normally scheduled for that date and time will be held prior to the workshop, starting at 6:15 p.m.

Fairfax County guidelines require that one person who has completed the Food Safety Workshop be on-site during the operation of a concession stand. So compliance is simplified for TJ when many TJ parents carry the certification. If you have questions or would like to attend, please contact Steve Mazur at [sfmazur7 at gmail.com](mailto:sfmazur7@gmail.com). Confirmation of participation is necessary as certificates of completion (which are valid for 5 years) will be distributed immediately after the workshop.

And now for the team news...

Varsity Cheer: The Varsity squad gave an excellent performance at the Homecoming Pep Rally. The team kept TJ spirit high through spirit days such as jungle day, jersey day, nerd day, floral day and lax bro day, before every football game. During our October home game, they supported breast cancer awareness with their pink pom-poms and matching bows. On the last home game in November, senior cheerleaders **Priya Krishnan, Jane Pak, Jenny Park, Akhila Ananthram, Sarah Sam, and Emilie Fortman** and their families were honored by **Dr. Glazer** and **Mr. DeRose**. The underclassmen honored the senior cheerleaders in various ways including decorating the school stone with all of their names.

The varsity team worked hard on their competition routine amidst injuries. They competed on October 19 at the District semi-finals and gave a superlative performance. They performed twice with zero technical deductions both rounds. Thanks to the varsity Head Coach **Melissa Rapp**, and assistant coaches **Sharon Kim**, and **Kelli Bane** for their hard work with the competition routine. The varsity competition team was led by senior captains Priya Krishnan and Jane Pak with seniors Jenny Park, Akhila Ananthram, Sarah Sam and Emilie Fortman; juniors **Anna Li** and **Katie Ho**; sophomores **Emma Gee**, **Yana Kaplun**, **Ashley Kim** and **Sarah Shan**; and freshmen **Ariana Herbst** and **Alyssa Herbst**. The team competed in the District Finals on October 26 and improved their overall score with zero technical deductions. During the District Finals, senior Priya Krishnan was selected to the All District Team. Thanks to all the parents and football players who came to support our team. From the varsity squad, Priya Krishnan was named as a National Merit Semi-finalist and Sarah Sam was named as a National Hispanic Scholar. Congratulations to Priya and Sarah!



Varsity
Cheer

JV Cheer: Led by JV Coach **Carolyn Wilson**, the JV squad continued to keep the TJ spirit high during all the JV games. With Captains **Caroline Culberson** and **Christina Zhao**, junior **Claudia Lovegrove**, sophomores, **Maddie Guyant** and **Allison Ko**, and freshmen **Gwen Blasco**, **Coco Chen**, **Angela Ma**, **Taylor Quinn** and **Zoe Wang**, worked hard during JV football games. During the Varsity district semi-final and final competitions, they helped those TJ fans in attendance in cheering at the right times during the competition routine. The varsity squad thanks the JV Coach Wilson and the JV squad for their great support.

Cross Country: The Boys and Girls Cross Country teams finished strong. Both teams were Liberty District Champions. **Katherine Sheridan** won the Girls Liberty District Championship race, and six of the seven runners from each team qualified for All-District Honors. From the Boys team, **Michael Wattendorf** (3rd), **Chris Rom** (4th), **Dan Matson** (8th), **Andrew O'Shea** (9th), **Jacob Zucker** (10th) and **Greg Anderson** (12th) all received the honor. From the Girls team, All-District qualifiers were **Katherine Sheridan** (1st), **Taylor Refett** (3rd), **Grace Zeng** (5th), **Sarah Nielsen** (6th), **Katrina Junta** (13th) and **Sarah Stites** (14th).

At the Northern Regionals Championships, The Girls finished 3rd and the Boys finished 4th, with Katherine Sheridan (7th) qualifying for All-Region honors.



Front Row: **Elliot Simon**, **Elizabeth Ellor**, **Charlotte Sheridan**, **Hailey Stumvoll**; Middle Row: **Grace Zeng**, **Sarah Stites**, **Taylor Refett**, **Katherine Sheridan**, **Sarah Nielsen**, **Katrina Junta**, **Christine Mayuga**, **Jacob Zucker**; Back Row: **Coach James**, **Sephen Kool**, **Ned Danyliw**, **Greg Anderson**, **Coach Grimsley**, **Dylan Keightley**, **Michael Wattendorf**, **Matt Baron**, **Chris Rom**, **Dan Matson**, **Andrew O'Shea**, **Dr. Glazer**.

The Boys finished 6th at the State Championship meet, and the Girls finished 10th.



Right to left: **Katherine Sheridan**, **Sarah Stites**, **Sarah Nielsen.**, **Elizabeth Ellor**, **Katrina Junta** and **Christine Mayuga**. **Taylor Refett** also ran, but is not in the picture.



Right to left (roughly front to back) are **Michael Wattendorf**, (**Elliot Simon** and **Greg Anderson** obscured behind Michael), **Andrew O'Shea**, **Dan Matson** and **Jacob Zucker**. **Chris Rom** ran, but is not in the picture.

TJ's JV teams finished in the top three consistently throughout the season, with both teams dominating in the Coaches Festival (the unofficial JV District Meet).

With excellent underclassmen on both teams, the future looks bright for XC at TJ. Congrats to all team members for their dedication to practice and their efforts on race days. Stay in shape, run over the summer, and see you next fall!

Indoor Track

Indoor Track practices are just getting underway. Parents and athletes, be sure to get on the Indoor Track Newsletter list by sending an email to [TJRunLiaisons at gmail.com](mailto:TJRunLiaisons@gmail.com). One newsletter has already gone out, so if you did not receive it, send that

email!! Also, check the website frequently. The meet schedule is posted.

Dance: The TJ Dance Team competed at the FAIRFAX DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP on November 19. The team had a great competition, finishing third in kick and seventh in pom. Several team members also performed in the solo category. Congratulations to freshmen **Olivia Moffet** for placing first and **Lindsay Williams** for placing second in the junior solo division. Seniors **Sydney Ulrich-Dogonniuck**, **Yasmine McBride** and **Vicky Kelley**, and junior **Stephanie Levin** competed in the senior solo division.

The Dance Team wishes to thank the fans for their support during the fall season. The team is excited about performing during varsity basketball games during the winter season. The team's next competition is December 11 at George Mason University. Please come out and support the team!!

Field Hockey: In mid-November it was announced that Senior Captain **Allie Ivener** was selected for first team All Region! Allie has been a 3-year starter on Varsity, playing forward, and is well known for her speedy runs up the field and well placed crosses to put the ball in scoring position. Congratulations Allie! Congratulations also go to **Rheem Brooks** and Allie for being named First Team All District; to **Katy Burgio** and **Karen Clark**, who were named Second Team All District; and **Kleo Greenwood**, named Honorable Mention All District.



Allie Ivener
takes the lead
again!

Varsity Football: Colonial Varsity football finished its season with a rip-snorting 17-7 victory over South Lakes at home November 4, gaining two touchdowns and a field goal from Seahawk turnovers forced by an aggressive TJ defense.

With the game scoreless at halftime, TJ began the second half with a pooch kickoff and pounced immediately on the ball after a Seahawk fumble. **Nick Mattes**'s passing and **Patrick O'Connor**'s rushing took the ball to the South Lake 12 yard-line, where **Ben Carniol** kicked his first field goal of the season, putting TJ ahead 3-0.

South Lake answered with a touchdown later in the quarter, but three minutes into the fourth quarter linebacker **Ian Ladner** intercepted a Seahawk long throw at mid-field and ran the ball back to the South Lake 5 yard-line. Workhorse O'Connor promptly drove the ball across the goal, giving TJ a 10-7 lead after the PAT.

With nine minutes left to play, it was anybody's game, and TJ fan anxiety level reached new heights. As the clock ticked away, the Seahawks resorted more and more to the long pass, and with three minutes left to play the TJ backfield once again picked off a South Lake pass at midfield – this time by **Alex Zaita**, who outran his pursuers and raced across the goal line. With the PAT, TJ moved to a 17-7 lead, the final score of the game.

True to form, the TJ defense was outstanding throughout. **Luke Birch** was everywhere – providing deep coverage when that was needed, stopping runs at the line of scrimmage when that was needed. **Daniel Edwards** was a tiger, particularly during the second quarter, ripping through the Seahawk line to stop plays before they got started. **Patrick Maribojoc**, playing special team, nailed a South Lake returner solid after TJ's first TD kick-off. And Ladner, when he wasn't intercepting, was whamming receivers right and left.

The victory was a fitting end to the TJ season. Defense was solid and aggressive, setting up a touchdown and field goal and scoring one touchdown itself. The offense seized its opportunities and displayed the pass-run combination at its best. Most important, the team as a whole showed esprit as high as at any time during the season.

At the November 17 sports banquet **Coach Ken Kincaid** could not have more eloquently summed up his view of the team's performance throughout the season: "The team played as one spiritual family. I've coached high school football 34 years and I've never enjoyed a year more than this one."

DISTRICT RECOGNITION

First team all district: **Luke Birch**
Second team all district: **Alex Zaita, Ed Cai, Dimitre Nitchev, Jack Brown, Nick Mattes**
Honorable mention: **Saul De La Barra, Ian Ladner, Jay Li, Patrick O'Connor, Stas Schaller**

AWARDS TO SENIORS

Colonial award for all-around performance and inspiration: **Kevin Karn**
Minuteman award: **Dimitre Nitchev**
Patriot award for leadership: **Luke Birch**
John Travis award for courage: **Alex Zaita**
Outstanding Hustle award: **Ryan Tasker-Benson**
Most Improved player: **Ed Cai**
Coach's award: **Ian Ladner**
Special teams player of the year: **Bryce Summers**
Utility player award: **Mike MacCannon**
Defensive practice player of the year: **Ben Torczon**
Offensive practice player of the year: **Paul Yea**
Comeback player of the year: **Mark Elias**
Outstanding defensive lineman: **Stas Schaller**
Iron man award: **Saul De La Barra**
Most improved lineman: **Jay Li**
Most improved defensive back: **Patrick Yu**

JV Football: The team ended the season on a three game winning streak to achieve a 5-3 record, the best JV football record since 2004! The Colonials were sharp in all facets of the game, scoring on offense, defense, and special teams in a 42-0 shutout of Marshall. **Kia Eskandarian** ran for 3 touchdowns behind excellent blocking by the offensive line of **Brian Welch, Josh Fang, Taylor Yohe, Prajal Bishwakarma, and Paul Bentz.** **Tim Zhong** completed a touchdown pass to **Ben Carniol.** **Sean Waterton** returned a fumble for a touchdown, and **Eddie Chung** returned a punt 70 yards for a touchdown. That victory was followed up with a 20-8 road win over McLean. The Colonials ended their season with a thrilling 14-6 triumph over South Lakes. **Daniel Noh** ran for a touchdown and had 3 interceptions, including one just outside the TJ end zone with less than a minute to play to ensure the win. The South Lakes game was the fourth in which the defense held their opponents to less than 10 points, and for the year the defense only gave up an average of 13 points per game! Defensive standouts included linemen **Ben Hatanpää, Wei Lin, Venkat Manne, Daniel Min, Philip Yu, Brandon Zhang** and **Ji Soo**

Song: linebackers **Andrew Draganov, Alex Kim, Daven Kim, Salim Najjar** and **David Zhao;** and **Jeff Fang, Arvind Gupta** and **Quark Wei** in the secondary.

Freshman Football: The first football season has come to a close and although we did not win the most games, we showed the rest of the league that we have the most spirit. Starting back in August when the temperatures were high and the practices were long, the boys worked hard to learn new skills and build a new team. Nearly 80% of them had never played organized football and with the guidance of **Coach Rapp** and **Coach Scott,** the team made great strides in both playing and understanding the game.

The Freshman team did have its fair share of great moments. There were some beautiful long passes, great running plays, several memorable touchdowns and of course none of that would be possible without our very strong defensive blocking. The team will take the knowledge they gained, the skills they have learned and the friendships they have made and go on to have an even greater JV football season. Your coaches, your parents and most importantly your classmates are all very proud of your achievements this season. We know you worked hard and above all else you had FUN!!

Coed Golf: The Coed golf team finished a great season with a 4-4 record, which is great in itself but doesn't tell the whole story. The team had their highest finish since 1993 by placing third in the Liberty District golf tournament. Freshman **Julie Luo** finished first overall in the tournament and **Sean McElrath, Mike Serron, Taylor Culman** and **Alex Sands** had the next four lowest scores combined with Julie's to give the team its third place standing. In three of the four losses the team suffered, the match was lost by five strokes or less; that's only one stroke per golfer! The loss with the biggest margin was against eventual Virginia State Champion, Langley High School. Julie's win at Districts qualified her for the Regional tournament, where she played well enough to qualify for the Virginia state tournament. There, she placed a very respectable 19th out of 72 golfers. Congratulations, Julie!

At the Fall Sports Banquet, senior **Mike Serron** was recognized as being an All-District Honorable Mention, **Sean McElrath** was awarded the golf team's "Most Improved Golfer" and **Julie Luo** was awarded

"Most Valuable Golfer." We look forward to next season with excitement and great anticipation, as most of the team will be returning.

The team wishes seniors **Eddie Rim** and Mike Serron a fond farewell and future success both on and off the golf course. Eddie and Mike along with juniors Taylor Culman, **Alex Dalzell**, Sean McElrath, and Alex Sands, sophomore **Chris Prak**, and freshmen Julie Luo and **Stefan Young** want to thank **Coach John Myers** and **Assistant Coach Heidi Smith** for the hard work and dedication you showed our team this season.

Girls' Golf: The Girls Golf team had a fun but challenging season this year. Compared to last year, we had: fewer players on the team (8); double the number of matches (6); played against more schools (Langley – 1 win, 1 loss; Stuart – win; Woodson -1 win, 1 loss; South Lakes – loss); and played at Reston National, a beautiful course. The team finished the season with 3 wins and 3 losses with 6 players qualifying for the Regional event: **Hana Chan**, **Jennifer Hwang**, **Anne Li**, **Julie Luo**, **Ellen Nguyen**, and **Toni Stapleton**. Congratulations to Julie Luo, a Freshman Co-ed team member, Liberty District Champion! Julie entered the state golf championship and tied for 19th out of 72 golfers.

Varsity Volleyball: This Fall 2011 Season showcased some tremendous team efforts by all thirteen players of this star-studded roster. Most notably, Senior Setter and Co-Captain, **Angela Liu**, was honored with an Honorable Mention All-District Team Award and Tournament MVP for the Raider Rumble at Stuart. Some other incredible showings include: Libero and Co-Captain, **Nicole Gonzalez**, with her reliable serve receive and leadership, Middle Hitters **Christina Shincovich** and **Care Shoabi** with their dominating blocks and forceful offensive attacks, **Maggie Engler** as Outside Hitter and all-around player for her undeniable consistency and point-scoring ability from both front and back rows, and Freshman Outside Hitter, **Maria Velicu** for her powerful swings and jump float serve. Several other key players include Right-Side Hitters **Stephanie Van Rafelghem** and **Nancy Wang** for their match-up blocking and tricky offensive maneuvers, Outside Hitters **Helen Li** and **Allison Wang** for their versatility and resourcefulness, and Defensive Specialists **Schyler Pa**, **Anna Hicks** and **Jessica Sun** for their do-or-die mentality out on the court that always kept the ball alive. Other acknowledgements

include, Angela Liu awarded with the Leadership Award, Stephanie Van Refelghem the Most Improved Player Award, and Christina Shincovich the Coaches Award for 2011.

JV Volleyball: JV Volleyball delivered an epic performance this year. Our beasts at the net, **Melanie Piller** and **Kirsten Cardinal** hammered the ball at the net. These two were accompanied by our scrappy and determined outside hitter and DS **Dorothy Wang** who never let a ball hit the ground. Our other MH, **Rachel Iwicki** was a powerhouse at the net with blocks that made it difficult for the opposing team to penetrate the net. Our RS hitter, **Michelle Wang** brought talent to the court as well as an attitude that always had her teammates smiling. OH **Yihemba Yikona** can hammer the ball on the other side of the court. Other hitters **Maddie Martin**, **Jenny Seo** and **Olivia Sullivan** brought an endless amount of enthusiasm to this team and shined throughout the entire season. None of this would have been possible without the outstanding two setters, **Amanda Nguyen** and **Emmelyn Luu**. These two worked effortlessly to set up their team to success. Our two Liberos **Mya Abousy** and **Gloria Cho** owned the court. Gloria played her heart out every game with a countless amount of digs. Mya was the glue to this team, and motivated each and every girl to play their best every time they walked on the court.

Freshman Volleyball: The Freshman Girls Volleyball Team had an extraordinary season with an overall record of 11-4. Led by Captains **Aliana Gungor** and **Alexis Gillmore** this team came together and won impressive comeback victories over numerous quality opponents. The team ace this year was **Katie Cox**, who led the team with 42 serving aces and had an impressive 93% serving percentage. The overall best serve percentage went to **Tara Abrishami** who made 100% of her serves for the year. **Callan Monette** also helped lead the team with her hard-to-return serves, 27 aces, and 92% serving percentage. At the setter position **Julia Dunbar** and **Alexis Gillmore** were the team stars, sharing the load throughout the season. They contributed to the team success on every play all season. Alexis Gillmore was also our team leader with 28 kills on the season, and Julia finished the season with 9 kills. The team was also helped by the offensive consistency of Katie Cox, **Sara Mueller**, **Jenny Fang**, and **Sophie Bennett**. Sophie Bennett led the team in blocks for the season as well. This TJ team had one of the most solid set of

defensive players in the district all season long. Led by Aliana Gungor, **Heather Lukas**, and Tara Abrishami this dig machine trio kept our team going in many key moments. **Yuquian Yang**, Callan Monette, and **Sreya Addanki** helped solidify our reputation as one of the area's strongest defensive freshman teams. It was a great season and each of the girls grew significantly in their understanding of the game, fundamentals as a player, and belief in themselves as student-athletes. The future of TJ Volleyball is bright.

Crew Boosters

Ready for a new sport or just looking to work off Thanksgiving dinner? Join the Crew team in the Cafeteria every weekday from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm to work out and get in shape for the Spring Season. Attendance is strongly encouraged for any rower who is not participating in a winter sport.

In order to work out with the team, all students must have a current **VHSL sports physical form** on file with the Activities Office and provide Crew's coaches with a current **FCPS Emergency Care Form** (SS/SE-3). In addition, students and their parents must both complete the mandatory online concussion training. **Please click here now and get trained today!**

Students interested in rowing should visit the **TJ Crew website** and contact the Men's Team Captains ([tjmescaptains at gmail.com](mailto:tjmescaptains@gmail.com)), or the Women's Team Captains ([tjwomenscaptains at gmail.com](mailto:tjwomenscaptains@gmail.com)), to be added to the captains' email lists.

Questions may also be emailed to President Dave Nuckols ([tjcrewpresident at gmail.com](mailto:tjcrewpresident@gmail.com)), or Head Coach Bill Randall ([cjsb at verizon.net](mailto:cjsb@verizon.net)).

Congratulations to seniors **Colleen Maher** and **Erin Slatery** who were named to the 2011-2012 US Rowing Scholastic Honor Roll and to senior **Nick Skeen** who was named to the 2011-2012 US Rowing Honorable Mention Scholastic Honor Roll.

Band Boosters

The school year is off to an exciting start for TJ Bands. Our Marching Colonials received a superior rating at the VBODA Assessment and took first place in IV Open competition at the USSBA State Championship. Two of our students, **Brett Offutt** and **Justin Bui**, made the All-Virginia Jazz Band on piano and vibraphone. Our next concert is December 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the TJ auditorium—everyone is welcome! Our next citrus delivery arrives on December 17 (orders must be placed by Dec. 10)--visit <http://tjbands.org/> for more information.

Orchestra Boosters

Don't miss the upcoming TJHSST Orchestra events! The Winter Concert will be on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. Extend the holidays by attending The Viennese Ball on Friday, January 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Come learn to waltz and enjoy great food! Please see the **Orchestra website** to sign up to help with the Concert Reception and/or the Ball! Parents are needed to chaperone, serve food and clean up.

If you have questions, please contact Barbara Steele at [jbstelee5 at verizon.net](mailto:jbstelee5@verizon.net).

Theatre Boosters

Drama students have had a busy and successful past two months.

First was a performance of *War At Home* at the Virginia Theater Association's Regional Competition held the last weekend of October at the Hyatt Regency in Reston. While there, students had a chance to see some of the forty-three other High School's performances and to participate in theatre workshops.

On November 18 and 19, those in attendance enjoyed wonderful performances of *Too Clever By Half or the Diary of a Scoundrel*. The play was directed by **Vincent Pollet** and student director **Rebecca Edelstein**, and starred: **Rishi Malhotra, Malaika Murphy-Sierra, Austin Dunn, Zach Moser, Emily Kelly, Daniel Perkes, Leif Bakke, Michaela Brown, Jordan Goodson, Ben Andre, Neal Chaudhuri,**

Christine Jacobs, Kira Becker, Jacqui Anders, Adam Friedman, and Gavin Moore.

Coming up on February 2 and 3 (2012), is the *Annual Knight of One Axe*. Auditions for this production will be held December 12 and 13.

Thank you to those parents who chaperoned for VTA and all those who helped with meals during rehearsal week. It was great to have so many parent volunteers – especially those of students new to TJ or new to Drama.

Our next Theatre Boosters meeting is **Monday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Library. Please join us!

For more on TJ Drama visit the **Theatre Boosters website**, or email us at tj.theatreboosters@gmail.com.



Too Clever By Half, Malaika Murphy-Sierra and Neal Chaudhuri



Too Clever By Half, Zach Moser and Daniel Perkes



Too Clever By Half, Jordan Goodson, Michaela Brown, Jacqui Anders, Christine Jacobs and Kira Becker



The ensemble from *War At Home*, performed at the Virginia Theatre Association Regional Competition in Reston on October 28.



Too Clever By Half, Rishi Malhotra and Emily Kelly

Announcements and Information

tjSTAR: New Look, New Site



Call for Photographers

The tjSTAR Committee is looking for experienced photographers to capture speakers, presentations, design challenges and other significant moments during tjSTAR, a day-long, school-wide research symposium held at TJHSST on May 30, 2012.

Although cameras will not be provided, photographers are welcome and may be able to volunteer in shifts. If you know any experienced photographers or parents who are experienced in photography, please encourage them to contact [tjstarcommittee at gmail.com](mailto:tjstarcommittee@gmail.com) or call (703) 750-8339.

To find out more information about tjSTAR, please visit bit.ly/tjstar for the latest updates and news. Thanks for your support!

The Galapagos Island Over Spring Break

Ever thought about walking in the steps of Charles Darwin? Well, here's your chance. Join journalism teacher **Jennifer Seavey** and Spanish teacher **Alexandra Pou** on the trip of a lifetime. We're going to the Galapagos Islands over spring break (March 28 – April 8, 2012). [Click here for more information.](#)

You can register online directly, but please email either Mrs. Seavey ([jaseavey at fcps.edu](mailto:jaseavey@fcps.edu)) or Senora Pou ([AYPou at fcps.edu](mailto:AYPou@fcps.edu)) if you do.

Questions? Mrs. Seavey's direct line at school is (703) 750-8375. She's been to the islands four times so she knows the turf. Come meet the blue-footed boobies and swim with the Galapagos penguins!



TJeCycling Collection Program Starts Again

The TJeCycling Program is up and running again for the new school year. Last year, TJeCycling collected more than **1000** pounds of old electronics and disposed of them properly through the Fairfax County Electronic Sunday Program. Stop letting your old electronics take up space in your house. Please don't throw them away with your household trash. Old cell phones, computers, keyboards, radios, etc. can contain precious metals that are harmful to the environment. TJeCycling will once again work with Fairfax County to recycle these electronic items to keep the harmful materials out of the landfills. Please email [tjecycle at gmail.com](mailto:tjecycle@gmail.com) or contact **Michael Cooper** at (703) 450-0321 with questions and for information on drop off sites at TJ. Be kind to the planet and eCycle!

Noteworthy Dates

| December 2011 | January 2012 |
|--|---|
| 2 Choir Concert, 7pm in Auditorium | 2 Winter Break, No School |
| 3 Choir Concert, 7pm in Auditorium | 3 Orchestra Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room |
| 6 Parents for Safe Teen Driving, 6:30pm in Auditorium | 5 PTSA Meeting, 7:30pm in Library |
| 7 Poetry Out-Loud Competition, 2:20pm in Auditorium | 6 Viennese Ball, 7pm in Cafeteria |
| 7 Money for College Program, 7:30pm in Auditorium | 11 Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library |
| 8 PTSA Meeting, 7:30pm in Library | 11 Crew Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Room 106 |
| 13 Band Concert, 7pm in Auditorium | 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, No School |
| 14 Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library | 16 Theatre Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library |
| 14 Crew Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Room 106 | 17 Volunteer Coordinator's Meeting, 6pm in Principal's Conference Room |
| 14 Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center | 17 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center |
| 14 Orchestra Concert, 7pm in Auditorium | 20 Class of 2013-sponsored Sock Hop, 8pm in Gym 2 |
| 19 Theatre Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library | 23 Tele-learn Day for Students |
| 20 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center | 24 Swim/Dive Meeting, 6pm in Principal's Conference Room |
| 23 Winter Break, No School | 24 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center |
| 26-30 Winter Break, No School | 30 Teacher Workday, No School |
| 31 Teacher Workday, No School | 31 Teacher Workday, No School |
| HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!! | |



**Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)**

Become a 2011-2012 Member of the TJ PTSA!

Please join the TJ PTSA and help support our many worthwhile activities, which play a vital role in creating a rich and stimulating learning environment at TJ. PTSA membership dues and donations are our major source of funding, and help cover the cost of many programs and other needs, including:

Mentorship Fair
Faculty Professional Development
Techstravaganza
Cultural Arts
Freshman Shakespeare Festival
Diversity Committee

Student Activities
Award Receptions for Students
Cluster and County Outreach Programs
Landscaping
Faculty and Staff Appreciation Events
Equipment for the School

To become a PTSA member, complete this form and return it with a check to the TJ front office

OR mail the completed form and a check to:
TJHSST PTSA, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22312

OR, join online at <http://www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsa/payments.htm>

Please consider making an additional donation, so we can better support students, faculty, and staff!

Student Name(s): _____ Class(es) of 20_____

Home Phone Number: _____ Student Email Address: _____

PTSA Membership Dues:

Couple Membership: \$30 per couple
Individual Memberships (other than faculty): \$15 per person
Faculty Memberships: \$10 per person

Please list member name(s) here: _____

| | Quantity | Total |
|---|----------|----------------|
| Number of Memberships @ \$15/each | _____ | \$_____ |
| Number of Faculty Memberships @ \$10/each | _____ | \$_____ |
| Additional Contribution (tax deductible) | | \$_____ |
| TOTAL | | \$_____ |

Any Questions? Email ptsa.membership@tjhsst.edu



All proceeds go to the Class of 2014 ☺ Forms and money are due **BY DECEMBER 8, 2011** to Mr. Foreman in the band room or Mr. Kosek in Room 146 (on red days) and Room 110 (on blue days)

| Item | Unit Price | Size (options: adult small, medium, large, X-large) | Quantity | Running Total |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---|-------------------|---------------|
| Sweatshirt (only) | \$30.00 | | | |
| Sweatpants (only) | \$25.00 | | | |
| Package (sweatpants and sweatshirt) | \$45.00 | | | |
| | | | Total Amount Paid | |

Name of student _____

Email _____

Spirit Pack Pick-up date will be announced via email

- 1) Pay in cash or check made out to tjhsst.
- 2) Order forms are available mr. kosek's room or via email
- 3) Turn them in to Mr. Kosek or a class council member
- 4) Design update: "Jefferson Class of 2014" instead of "Thomas Jefferson Class of 2014"