

## Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Students,

September has been a month to remember! We've had a great start to our school year with a school buzzing with a presidential visit, Homecoming festivities, and discussions about our One Question.

President Barack Obama came to TJ to sign the *America Invents Act* on September 16. We were able to pack the gymnasium with approximately 350 students, mostly seniors and members of the SGA who volunteered at the event. It was very difficult for me to hear from the White House staff that space was limited due to secret service requirements, so I wanted to prioritize our seniors through a random selection process. Prior to his speech, President Obama visited a room containing senior research projects, taking time to learn from our students, and through his words, "getting smarter through osmosis!" He offered many kudos to our students and teachers for their outstanding work, and two of our inventive students, **Rebecca Hyndman** and **Karishma Popli**, had a chance to share the stage in this historic moment. (Some event photos can be found at the end of the newsletter.)

The following week we had a chance to celebrate our school spirit through Homecoming Week, led by the SGA. Students dressed up each day and participated in friendly competitions, such as pep rally cheers, musical performances, float building, banner painting, and more. (See the end of the newsletter for some photos of the Homecoming pep rallies and the class floats.) I appreciate all of the time many of you have taken out of your busy schedules to volunteer in support of our community bonding efforts. Thank you for making the week welcoming to our alumni and a festive occasion for all of us!

This fall we have begun investigating our One Question: "How can we, the TJ community, take action to prepare students to confront difficult moral and ethical decisions, both now and in the future?"

We started with a book discussion on the summer reading, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, exploring bioethics and implications on intellectual property, policy, law, and culture. Many students also watched and discussed a video about Ethical Dilemmas, reflecting on social experiments when people witness bullying or racism. Later this month we will issue a TJ Partnership Fund sponsored grant to students and teachers, offering resources to those who wish to conduct special projects, trips, and events related to this year's One Question.

Also this month is the launch of our STEMbassadors outreach program. The goal is to place a TJ face in every school in the region, putting initial emphasis on FCPS priority schools (those schools that need extra support to meet FCPS achievement standards). In essence, I hope we can spread the TJ mindset about the joy of learning everywhere through our volunteerism and connection to our neighborhood schools. Our initial meeting for parents, partners, and alumni will be October 14 at 9:00 a.m. in our lecture hall, where we will discuss how to build the relationship and involve our students. Please contact Amy Shaw ([ptsa.secondvp at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.secondvp@tjhsst.edu)), PTSA VP and STEMbassadors coordinator, to sign up.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Back-to-School Night on October 5, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Go Colonials!

Sincerely,  
**Evan Glazer**  
Principal, TJHSST

## President's Message

What an eventful month September has been – floods closing down area roads, Angry Birds walking around the halls of TJ, baby chicks in the senior parking lot as part of asking week, and White House Secret Service agents patrolling our campus!

If you look at the scrolling photos on the TJ's Home Page, there is one photo of President Obama signing the American Invents Act in Gym 1 with the humorous caption... "Just a typical Friday at TJHSST. Nothing unusual going on here." What a day that was, especially for our TJ students who had the honor of hosting the President of the United States in their own school. It will be a day that is long remembered at TJ!

I hope everyone's students are off to a great start and enjoyed our very exciting Homecoming week's festivities. I will never forget catching a glimpse of Principal Glazer dressed up in his "Angry Birds" outfit, greeting some guests who had just arrived at our school. We take Homecoming week very seriously here at TJ! A very special thank you to all of you parents and faculty who chaperoned the dance and rearranged their schedules to accommodate our Homecoming Varsity Football game rain date! We are also a flexible bunch!

The Hospitality Committee hosted a delicious Faculty Welcome-Back-to-School Breakfast in August, before school even started. In addition to the Hospitality Committee, many of our other committees are already in full-swing including Free Money, Landscaping, Recycling, Diversity, All Night Grad Party (ANGP), Faculty Allocations, Reflections, 8<sup>th</sup> period, JLC, Membership, Class Parent Liaisons, Newsletter, Library After-School Program, and STEMbassadors. Also, our webmaster is continuously at work providing the valuable service of updating our PTSA website.

In addition, our volunteer coordinators are busy finding volunteers for many school activities – are you signed up? **Sign up to volunteer!**

Thanks also to the panelists who participated on the PTSA "Navigating TJ" Forum. Navigating TJ has turned into a TJ tradition, where knowledgeable TJ parents share information about how they help their children get as much as possible out of their TJ years. We hope that parents enjoyed the evening and came away feeling like they learned a lot – especially from one panelist who joked, "with all of the driving you'll do at TJ, you need to learn to love your car, or get a new one!"

Speaking of transportation, I'd like to remind parents that the base high schools occasionally open late, which makes it necessary for those parents to drive their TJ students to the base high school in the morning. Whenever that happens, if the base school Administrators or FCPS Transportation notify us, the transportation page on the website will be updated to include the delayed opening information. Delayed openings are also advertised via KITs from the base schools, so all parents should subscribe to KIT information from both TJ and their base school.

With the October 5 Back-to-School night fast approaching, I want to emphasize what an important night that is for parents, as it gives us one of our only glimpses into our children's school day in ten minute time-periods as we visit each of their classes. I always come away feeling so grateful that our kids are in a school with such unique opportunities and course offerings being taught by enthusiastic, talented and professional teachers.

We also encourage you to come early, not only to capture one of those coveted parking spaces on the property, but also to eat a delicious pasta dinner provided by the Band Boosters. Presale tickets are \$11, and \$12 at the door. Many of the Booster groups, the Partnership Fund and various PTSA committee members will be available in the main gym to answer your questions, sell some of their TJ merchandise or "sign you up!" If you haven't already done so, please also consider becoming a PTSA member that evening. The PTSA's activities directly impact your students and we can't do it without your participation.

Another added bonus of the evening is that our very popular Student Directories will be available for pick-up for those who pre-ordered, or on sale for those who would like to buy one or more. The TJ Directory is one of the PTSA's most significant services to the TJ community. It contains indices that allow you to find all the students who live in each zip code, who belong to each graduating class, and who have a parent with a different last name. It also has information on the TJ schedule, TJ bus transportation, faculty, staff, administrators, student government and class councils, Booster groups, the Partnership Fund, and dozens of PTSA committee chairs and liaisons. This year, it will contain two new pieces of information: the College and Career Center Quick Sheet and a floor plan of TJ. The directory costs only \$10, which is why you might want to consider picking up more than one for your car and your home!

A huge “thank you” to this year’s dedicated Directory committee (you’ll find their names inside the Directory), who have worked tirelessly for many weeks, into the wee hours of some mornings, in order to get the directory printed in time for Back-to-School night. This is a monumental endeavor that our entire community benefits from, so take a moment to say “thanks” to the committee members.

We’d like to welcome Robin Hatanpää, the newest addition to our PTSA Executive Committee. Robin has agreed to become our Corresponding Secretary; she is taking the place of Jean Lee, who had to step down for family reasons. We certainly wish Jean and her family all the best and thank her for everything she has done on the Executive Committee.

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me, or anyone else on the executive committee, with any questions or concerns. We can be reached at [ptsatjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsatjhsst@tjhsst.edu).

~~ Denise Bunting  
TJ PTSA President  
[Bunting.denise@gmail.com](mailto:Bunting.denise@gmail.com)

## PTSA Update

### Upcoming PTSA Meetings

Wednesday, October 5 from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the auditorium, at Back-to-School Night. The meeting will include a short discussion on our mission and budget and a “state of school” address from **Dr. Glazer**. For more information, please refer to the [TJ website home page](#) and click on “Back to School Night Information” located on the right-hand side of the page.

Friday, November 4, 9:00 a.m., PTSA Meeting and Principal’s Coffee, TJ Cafeteria.

### Landscape Committee

What a year of weather we’ve had! Our summer drought has changed to more rain than we need! Our gardens this Fall are a riot of color! The Joe Pye Weed, callicarpa (purple beauty berry bushes), solidago, and woodland sunflowers (*Helianthus divaricatus*) are blooming on the Native Hill and the sedum ‘Autumn Joy,’ woodland sunflowers and

solidago ‘Fireworks’ on the Waterwise Hill are in bloom. Look for the native asters to explode with white flowers in October! In the main courtyard the woodland asters are arching white blossoms and the turtleheads have lovely pink blooms; the eupatorium rugosum (white snake root) is blooming in the audlob garden.

Our first two Fall Weekend Efforts were rained out, so we really need as many volunteers as possible on Saturday, October 8 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Junior and Senior students - you can count this effort as service hours for NHS; Freshmen and Sophomores can show your school spirit!

Our eighth period club, *Cultivators of the Earth*, will begin meeting on Friday A & B block in October. Come and join us for fun and food while we work to make the TJ campus shine!

For up-to-date information on Landscape Efforts you can visit the [Landscape Committee website](#). We welcome as much help as you feel able to give to keep the TJ campus green. We have a lot of fun and you can learn about eco-friendly methods of gardening.

Please contact Chair Eleni Silverman at (703) 960-1261 to volunteer or to check on rain delays.

### Volunteer Committee

#### Volunteer Opportunities for Parents:

Would you like to meet other parents? Learn your way around TJ and help our school? Then the PTSA Volunteer Coordinators want you to **become a TJ volunteer! Sign up to volunteer right now.** This is the only way the committee chairs can learn of your interest and get your information so it is very important!! Once on the website, you can choose from the **variety of TJ volunteer opportunities** available.

You can help out occasionally at events during the days or evenings or on the weekends (such as the upcoming Myers-Briggs testing) or you can pitch in on a more regular weekly or monthly basis (such as with afternoon library help)! Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated!! Remember, **you must register to be included in the volunteer pool.** Once you are on the list, the committee chairs will contact you by email.

Please contact your PTSA Volunteer Coordinators (Rajni Goel, Lakshmi Bala and Nancy Roodberg) with any questions at [ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu](http://ptsa.volunteers.at.tjhsst.edu). If you forget your user name or password for the website, click on “forgot username or passcode” and an email will be sent with your login information. We look forward to working with you!

The **After-School Library Program** needs your help! The TJ library is now open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m., and many students have been availing themselves of this opportunity to access library resources. (On the Monday afternoon before the Homecoming Game, 111 students used the library!) We need two parent volunteers to supervise students each day the library is open; please consider volunteering 1 or 2 afternoons a month. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you have any questions about this program, please contact Gail Brodfuehrer at [GBrodfuehrer at verizon.net](mailto:GBrodfuehrer@verizon.net).

## Upcoming Events

**TJHSST 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Faculty & Parent Choir performing *Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert & Sullivan**

Do you like to sing? Want to support TJHSST arts and meet fun people? Join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Faculty & Parent Choir. We had a great time last year!

The performance will be a collaboration with the TJ Choir and the FCPS Music Directors Choir. We will be performing this famous show in a “concert format” – no dancing or frolicking required. (The jury’s still out on whether to wear pirate shirts.) In this show, the men and women of the chorus mostly sing separately so we will rehearse separately. This will make learning the music easier – **beginners are always welcome!** No previous singing experience necessary, really.

**Men’s rehearsals:** Wednesdays, Oct. 5-Nov. 9 (6-7pm).

**Women’s rehearsals:** Wednesdays, Oct. 5-Nov. 9 (7-8pm).

**Joint rehearsals:** Tuesday, Nov. 22 & 29 (6-7:30pm).

**Performances:** December 2 and December 3 (7pm at TJHSST).

I understand that everyone is busy but if you can make it for most of the rehearsals and the performances, please consider joining! It will be fun and fulfilling. E-mail **Molly Khatcheressian**, TJ Choir Director, for the full-schedule or to join: [molly.khatcheressian at fcps.edu](mailto:molly.khatcheressian@fcps.edu).

## Serving the TJ Community

### Free Money \$\$\$



Please remember to 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).



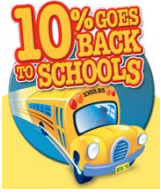
**Register your Grocery Cards NOW to Earn \$ for TJ!**

Thank you to all who have already registered their Giant, Safeway, Harris Teeter and Target cards. **If you have not registered yet, please sign up ASAP.** As of September 21, we only have 85 cards registered for Giant, 68 for Harris Teeter, 60 for Target and 12 new members for Safeway escrip (many are already members of escrip) and have already earned over \$400. Our goal is to get 1000 cards registered this year! Every purchase from registered shoppers counts towards TJ’s earnings, even if you shop there infrequently. **But your card MUST be registered for TJ to earn \$.** The fastest way to sign up is online:

- **Safeway Club Card for Education:** TJ code **154534149.**

**Current Escrip participants:** “Renew” and verify TJ is your designated school.

**New Escrip participants:** Register and designate TJ.



**10% Back to School Receipts:** Now through October 13, the 10% Back to School Bonus redemption code will print on bottom of your Safeway receipt. Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), click on yellow school bus, designate TJ and enter redemption code *OR* bring your Safeway receipt to the Free Money table at Back to School Night. Collect and bring receipts from friends & family. Note: 10% Bonus will be credited automatically for escrip members.

- **Harris Teeter Together in Education** Vic Card: TJ code **5534**.
- **Giant A+**: Bonus Card: TJ code **02307**. Program starts October 7.
- **Target Red Card "Take Charge of Education"**: TJ Code **119746**. Or call 1-800-316-6142.

Please complete the Free Money survey found at the back of this issue of Tech cetera and bring it to the Free Money Table at Back to School Night, or return it to the front office. For more information on **Free Money Programs, click here**. Contact Stamo Georgiou at [stamog1@gmail.com](mailto:stamog1@gmail.com) or Vincent Wang at [vincep@gmail.com](mailto:vincep@gmail.com).

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

**ANGP = All Night Grad Party!** It's coming fast... and we are looking for "A Few Good Volunteers!" Join us at our next meeting – **Wednesday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m.** in the TJ Career Center.

**ANGP** is the **BIGGEST** celebration at TJ, designed to provide a safe, fun party for our Seniors on graduation night. Essentially an all night lock-in....the entire class attends to be with their friends for incredible activities and entertainers throughout the building, unlimited food and drink ranging from international buffets to carnival fare, plus prizes and gifts galore! We cannot do it without an army of volunteers. **WE NEED YOU!** So, sign up now to get your first choice of jobs and shifts. Senior parents are **STRONGLY** encouraged to help. Underclassmen parents are also very needed and welcome. It's **FUN**, so don't be left out!

Jobs range from Food, Activities, Casino, Baby Photos, Concierge, Decorating, Security, Mementos, Tickets, Prizes, Logistics, to Wrap Up. There's something for everyone to do!

We are also looking for Committee Chairs for the following positions: Baby Photos, Casino Money, Data Management, Sign Sale, Prizes and Store Raffle, Secretary and Wrap-up.

**Want to volunteer?**

**Want to learn more?**

**Want to take a leadership role?**

**Follow us on Facebook/TJ ANGP 2012.**

## **Student Services Corner**

### **Student Government Association**

September kept TJ's Student Government Association (SGA) busy. President Obama visited the school during the second week, and the SGA, Class Governments, and School Advisory Committee representatives went to work making banners to welcome the president, directing guests into the building, and helping the guests get situated. The visit went off without a hitch!

We also welcomed some 9/11 first responders from the FealGood Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping first responders in any way they can. The first responders spoke to a packed auditorium about their experiences and lives after 9/11. Many students wrote letters to various first responders or the families of first responders. These letters thanked the first responders for what they did that tragic day, and explained that we will always remember their heroism.

Homecoming Week was September 19 to 23, culminating with the Homecoming Dance on the 24th. Students dressed up for the various spirit days, including To the Red Carpet (dress your best), Get in Tune (anything music related) and Two is Better than One (pair or group day). Each day, the best dressed male and female students were chosen by a panel of teachers, and the final pep rallies on September 23

also included Musical Extravaganza performances and performances by the Dance Team and Cheer squad.

In October, SGA will be gearing up for freshman class elections for Class Council.

### *Guidelines*

You can find editions of the TJHSST Student Services Department newsletter (Guidelines) posted at [www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/dss/pubs.php](http://www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/dss/pubs.php). Scroll down to "Department of Student Services," and look under "**Publications and Resources.**"

## Academic News

### *Spanish News*

The **National Spanish Honor Society** begins the 2011-2012 school year with lots of Latin rhythm and flavor. "El Mes de la hispanidad," will be celebrated by honoring the Hispanic community here at TJ. Personal invitations to a special dinner and show, to be held on October 22 in the school cafeteria, have been sent out to families of the TJ community. Hispanic food will be served and students will present poetry and music. The Society encourages those with Hispanic heritage to come and be honored during this special and vibrant celebration. The goals of this year's officers are to continue to develop areas of community service available to its members, and to encourage full participation by all in the clubs' many activities. Everyone's talents are needed to make this year a success.

## Class News

### *2012 – Seniors*

Well, we are a month into school. Did everyone attend the Senior Parent night to talk about the college applications? Are we all crystal clear on the process? Quick now, how do we request transcripts for colleges? Seriously though, there is a lot to do over the next few months.

But first, there was Homecoming – the Class of 2012 dominated the Homecoming activities with their theme of "To Infinity and Beyond." They won the

categories of Homecoming Float, Music X, and Canned Goods and came in first in class spirit on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. They also came in second in the Money War and Banner categories, resulting in the Class of 2012 winning the overall Homecoming Competition with a total of 3,130 points. Go SENIORS!!!



The Class of 2012's  
First Place  
Homecoming Float.

We want to thank the Neuberger family for the use of their garage to shelter the Class of 2012's Homecoming float and the Reffett family for the use of their convertible during the halftime festivities. Of course, we also want to thank all those parents that helped with the Homecoming Dance.

As always, we need help with a couple of events. We need volunteers to help with the reception for the National Merit finalists scheduled for November 11. We are particularly hopeful that someone will be willing to organize the event for the class. Please let us know at [TJClassof2012 at cox.net](http://TJClassof2012.at.cox.net) if you are available to assist.

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.

Finally, we'd like to bring your attention to a few upcoming events:

- --National Quality Products will be taking **class ring orders** during lunch on September 28 and 29.
- --**Senior Pictures** will be taken again on November 2, 3 and 4.
- --There will be a **Senior/Freshman Sock Hop** on Friday, October 28.

--**Senior Parent Night** will likely be held sometime in January. It will provide an opportunity for parents to get information about graduation announcements, caps and gowns, All-Night Grad Party, and other June-related information. Vendors from Balfour will be there, as well as PTSA representatives. We'll let you know as soon as we have a firm date for this event.

That's it for now. Have a Happy Halloween!

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

## 2013 - Juniors

Happy Fall Class of 2013! By now, we hope that you and your students have settled into a comfortable routine for dealing with junior year. It was great to see so many familiar faces at the Back to School Bash and at the very exciting opening football game. The Colonials are certainly off to a great start! Spirit Week also saw a lot of excitement and enthusiasm for float building, Musical X, the canned food drive, the flash mob, and the Pep Rallies in anticipation of homecoming. In spite of the soggy weather, a good time was had by all. Thanks to the many parents who volunteered at the dance. Yun and I are always so grateful for our very supportive families who immediately jump in to help at events.

Some important dates coming up: **Back-to-School Night is October 5 at 6:30 p.m.** Please stop by the Class of 2013 table where we will be selling luggage tags and student planners. **The PSAT will be administered on October 12.** Please be sure to send in a check for \$17, payable to TJHSST, to cover the cost of the test. Bring payments to **Mr. Wong** (office A8) or look for a drop off location at BTS Night. Besides the No. 2 pencils and a calculator on the day of the test, please be sure your student gets plenty of rest in the days preceding the exam so they are fresh and ready to test. This one counts to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program.

Finally, we will report back in November on any decisions made at our Ideas Session, where we discussed plans for events and fund raising opportunities for the coming year.

As always, please feel free to contact either of us should you have any questions.

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

## 2014 – Sophomores

We hope that you have enjoyed a great start to the new school year. We would like to thank all the parent volunteers for their help with the homecoming dance.

As you may have heard, one of the big Sophomore events sponsored by the Class Council is the Auction. The Auction is an event held by the Sophomore Class Council, but it is not just for the parents of the Sophomore class; it can include outside guests, friends, and family as well. We are responsible for planning the Auction, but we need your help, too!

If you're interested in volunteering, or you have had experience with working at an Auction, please contact the Class Council at [tjclassof2014@gmail.com](mailto:tjclassof2014@gmail.com). Please help us plan the auction by **clicking on this link to complete a survey regarding the auction** as soon as possible.

The TJ 2014 Class Council thanks you for your support!

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

## 2015– Freshmen

We hope your students enjoyed their first Homecoming Week; they certainly appeared to be having a great time at the pep rallies!

Please contact Faye or Jim with any questions, or if you would like to volunteer to be a class of 2015 parent liaison. Thanks for your help!

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

## News Round-up and Awards

### National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

The following 156 TJHSST students have been named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists:

**Peter Ahnn, Reece Anderson, Skyler Anderson, Sakethnath Are, Catherine Ayres, Jawahar Baddula, Leif Bakke, Weina Bao, Matthew Baron, Divyalakshmi Bathey, James Bradbury, Connor Brinton, Matthew Bujor, Meredith Burkle, Edward Cai, Robert Champion, Amelia Carolus-Hager, Abhishek Cauligi, Alex Chen, Yong Min Cho, Rachel Chuang, Megan Clark, Callan Corcoran, Yang Dai, Mary Dilworth, Adrienne Doebrich, Austin Dunn, Claire Egan, Timothy Eklund, Elizabeth Ellor, Matthew Ferrell, Erika Fitzpatrick, Luke Gessler, Samuel Girvin, Rachel Goldstein, Dasith Gunawardhana, Stewart Hahn, Connor Hann, Gina Hansen, Emily Harmon, Helen Hastings, Anna Hicks, Mingming Hu, Lydia Hylton, Rebecca Hyndman, Rabia Idrees, Aleena Ijaz, Allison Ivener, Daniel Jacobson, Seiyong Jang, Yon Jang, Emily Ji, Elizabeth Johnson, Tushar Kamath, Daniel Kang, Sheila Kaushik, Andrew Kim, Soo Jin Kim, Alice King, Kyle Kramer, Priya Krishnan, Rachel Kumar, Vansh Kumar, Varun Kumar, Richard Kuzma, Ian Ladner, Elaine Lee, Mitchell Lee, Cynthia Li, Jerry Li, Rasia Li, George Liang, Guanmei Liang, Jongyeop Lim, Zeming Lin, Eileen Liu, Samuel Luo, Jonathan Lykins, Jahnavi Madiraju, Omeed Maghzian, Colleen Maher, Usnish Majumdar, Govind Mattay, Lizaveta Miadzvedskaya, Maxim Miroff, Ananya Mishra, Junsung Na, Aakash Nangarlia, Austin Neuberger, Aimi Nguyen, Ellen Nguyen, Jacqueline Nguyen, Samuel Nicoll, Owen Nugent, Alexander Park, Sruthi Poduval, Aravind Ponukumati, Michael Poussard, Rithvik Prasannappa, Marvin Qian, Sarah Rachal, Rafa Rahman, Kelsey Rainey, Pranava Raparla, Taylor Reffett, Peter Reischer, John Renner, Christopher Rom, Benjamin Rosenblum, Katherine Sanders, Sonica Saraf, Graham Schmidt, Wooram Seok, Anita Shammee, Daniel Shanker, Peter Shao, Victor Shao, Allen Shi, Yueyi Shi, Jake Shields, Srishti Shrivastava, Benjamin Silverman, Alisha Sindhvani, Sameer Singh, Nicholas Skeen, Seungin Sohn, Suganya Sridharma, Arjun Srinivasan, Mihir Srivastava, Heather Storeide, Mary Sun,**

**Anjali Taneja, Nathan Thillairajah, Eric Tobin, Benjamin Torczon, Peter Town, Stefanie Van Rafelghem, Elisabeth von Spakovsky, He Wan, Esther Wang, Michael Wattendorf, Zachary Williams, Paul Wolfeich, Eunice Wu, David Wyman, Ryan Yan, Alexander Yang, Glenna Yu, Katherine Yu, Patrick Yu, Stephen Yuan, Kerry Zhang, Yuqing Zhang, Zhereng Zhang, Stacey Zhou and Xintian Zou.**

More than 1.5 million juniors entered the National Merit program and approximately 16,000 students were named semifinalists. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors. All semifinalists are eligible to compete for 8,300 National Merit Scholarship awards worth \$34 million. Three types of Merit Scholarship awards are offered: National Merit \$2,500 scholarships, corporate-sponsored scholarships, and college-sponsored scholarships.

Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in spring 2012.

### tjToday Named NSPA Pacemaker Finalist

Congratulations to all involved in the production of tjToday, which has been named a finalist for the Pacemaker Award from the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA). **Rabia Idrees** is the editor of tjToday, and **Jennifer Seavey** is the faculty adviser.

Awards will be presented at the Journalism Education Association (JEA)-NSPA National High School Journalism convention in Minneapolis in November.

### VHSL Newspaper Finalists

The following students have been named finalists of the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Writing/Photo/Design Contest for Newspapers:

News, Straight News/News Feature: **Rabia Idrees**, "Under the Influence."

News, Sports News: **Jennifer Walter**, "Tennis comes up aces."

Feature: Human Interest/Personality (including Sports): **Anna Hicks** and **Noah Yoo**, "Lethal Weapon."

Feature: In-Depth/Informative (including Sports):  
**Sunny Kim**, “Taking a hard hit”; **Colleen Marshall**, “Inside the CIA.”

Editorials: **Bart Bachman**, “Teacher-student networking is no crime”; Bart Bachman, “Cyberbullying.”

Bylined Personal Opinion/Column: **Arya Dahal**, “Make service heartfelt.”

Review: **Tahmina Achekzai**, “First Draft”; **Shayna Hume**, “Swamplandia.”

Photo: News/Feature: **Jennifer Walter**, “Rally Fever.”

Front Page Layout: **Rabia Idrees**, “11.10.10.”

Inside Page Layout/Spread: **Anna Hicks** and **Noah Yoo**, “Inside Folger Shakespeare Library.”

Editorial Cartooning: **Tara Gupta**, “Snooki in Security.”

## Northern Virginia Writing Project

Congratulations to the following students and alumni for being published in “Falling for the Story,” an anthology of exemplary writing by students of Northern Virginia Writing Project Teacher Consultants:

Alumni: **Emily Goldfein**, **Albert Tholen**, **Mircea Cernev**, **Lisa Junta** and **Sara Suarez**  
Seniors: **Mary Sun** and **Peter Town**  
Junior: **Taylor Gelinas-Galaise**

TJ’s contributing Teaching Consultants are **Roger Green**, **Emily Orser**, **Susie Lebryk-Chao** and **Jennifer Seavey**.

## Chinese High School Principal Delegation visits TJ

A Chinese delegation made up of 75 high school principals visited TJ on July 28. They came from different areas of China to learn about our school. Before their visit to TJ, they had already made stops in Illinois and Boston. After the visit, they were off to other exotic places on their tour of schools in the United States.

**Dr. Glazer** warmly welcomed the Chinese principals. After his presentation of an overview of our school, four sessions of roundtable discussions, including one conducted by SGA President **Helen Hastings**, were held. Following the discussions, the Chinese principals toured TJ, guided by students of the Jefferson Society and juniors **Andrew Jiang**, **Nancy**

**Ding** and **Victor Shen** working as Chinese language interpreters.



Student Services Director **Mr. Kosatka** and language interpreter **Victor Shen** (2013) pose with some of the Chinese principals.

## South Korea Scholarship Program

Brothers **Nishant Garg** (2012) and **Nikhil Garg** (2014) were two of 100 high school students selected by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) to participate in the third annual South Korea Scholarship Program for high school students. Nishant and Nikhil traveled to South Korea from August 8-22. They were hosted by Yonsei University, South Korea’s oldest university, located in Seoul, South Korea. They attended academic lectures, tours, and cultural excursions throughout their stay. The CIEE program is intended to foster understanding and diplomacy between the U.S. and South Korea.

To learn more about the CIEE program, [click here](#).



Nishant Garg and Nikhil Garg visit a temple in South Korea.

## TJHSST Partnership Fund

### The President of the United States Supports TJ. What About You?

#### **GIVE TO THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL APPEAL:**

TJ's Wish List is growing and your voluntary contributions are essential to making faculty and student dreams a reality. Thanks to our wonderful early supporters, we have already collected over \$20,000! Please don't assume that there is a minimum "acceptable" donation amount or that your donation won't make a difference. We are most successful when everyone participates, so we hope that you will give an amount that's right for your family. Donation forms may be mailed to the PF Office, or you may donate online at [www.tjpartnershipfund.org](http://www.tjpartnershipfund.org). We will also be accepting donations (and handing out delicious goodies) at the PF table at Back-to-School Night on October 5. See you there!

#### **GIVE THROUGH THE UNITED WAY/ COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN:**

Temperatures are dropping, leaves are falling, so it must be time to fill out those UW/CFC forms at work. You're already participating, it's easy and painless, so please include TJ in your UW/CFC giving. Be proud to say you "gave at the office." The numbers are: UW #8705; CFC #81947.

**GIVE US A FEW HOURS OF YOUR TIME; IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO VOLUNTEER:** We had a wonderful turnout at the Freshman Parent Reception, and several new volunteers are already getting busy, but if you're just starting to figure out TJ and wondering how you can help the School, don't hesitate to fill out the Volunteer Form in the August Newsworthy or just send us an email or give us a call. Likewise, if you've been at the school a while but finally have a moment to help, we'd love to hear from you.

**GET YOUR COMPANY TO MATCH YOUR GIFT:** Every year we hear regrets from parents who neglected to take advantage of their employer's generous corporate matching opportunities. There is no easier way to double your donation! If you have any questions, just contact the PF Office. Ellen Smith, PF Development Manager, has helped many parents successfully "get matched" and she is just waiting to help you.

**GET A TOUR OF TJ'S UNIQUE LABS (ESPECIALLY, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, FOR JUNIOR PARENTS):** The best way to learn about TJ's labs and the research your students will be doing as seniors is to sign up for a lab tour. On the tour, you will hear from the Lab Directors, see how purchased equipment is being used, find out about current and future needs, and hear from students about their research. There are only two lab tours scheduled for this fall, spaces are limited, and spots fill quickly. The dates are: Tuesday, October 25, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.; and Tuesday, November 1, 2:15 - 3:40 p.m. To sign up, contact the PF Office.

**GET ALL YOUR PF QUESTIONS ANSWERED:** For any and all Partnership Fund information, please call Ellen Smith, PF Development Manager, at (703) 750-8317 or email her at [ellen.smith@tjhsst.edu](mailto:ellen.smith@tjhsst.edu). Better yet, stop by the PF Office at the back of the school next to the Energy Systems Lab.



What's for lunch? This is no fridge; it's the Biotechnology Lab's new Environmental Growth Chamber, a \$8,500 piece of equipment purchased with Partnership Fund donations that allows students to precisely control light, temperature, humidity and airflow to ensure constant conditions for the growth of plants, algae, yeast, bacteria, even animals. In collaboration with Dr. John McDowell, Associate Professor of Molecular Plant Pathology at Virginia Tech., students in Dr. **Andrea Cobb's** DNA class are studying a disease that infects the local soybean crop. Thanks to your generous donations, these TJ students' experiments have the best chance possible of yielding meaningful results.

**TJ Partnership Fund: WHERE YOU GIVE A LITTLE SO YOUR KIDS CAN GET A LOT!**

## TJHSST Boosters

### Academic Boosters



Our academic teams are already planning activities for this school year and they need financial support to attend competitions at the local, state, national, and international levels. We hope your family will join the TJ Academic Boosters to support these teams. Family membership is our #1 form of support – we need your help.

**Join the Academic Boosters** by downloading the membership form or **joining online**. It's easy! Your contributions are tax-deductible, and may be eligible for matching funds from your employer.

TJ's twenty academic teams will present their first funding requests to Academic Boosters on October 20. We will vote to allocate funds at our monthly meeting on October 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Career Center. Please join now so that we can support the teams' requests!

Thank you!

#### **TJ students make a great showing at Math Prize for Girls**

TJ was extremely well represented at this year's Math Prize for Girls competition, held on September 17 at MIT. Ten TJ students qualified for the annual event!

**Victoria Xia** (2014) finished first among the 276 contestants, receiving a \$25,000 prize. **JungYoon (Sara) Kim** (2015) placed fourth, winning \$2,000. With these impressive results, both students qualified for the Math Prize for Girls Olympiad, which will take place later this year.

Seven other TJ students also participated in this prestigious competition: **Pooja Chandrashekar** (2015), **Jennifer (Jenny) Fang** (2015), **Kristina Hu** (2012), **Julie Kim** (2014), **Nalini Singh** (2013), **Jessica Wu** (2015), and **Katherine Wu** (2013). In addition, **Veronica Lee** (2014) qualified, but was unable to attend this year.

Congratulations to all!!

## Band Boosters

The new school year is off to a busy start for the TJ bands! Come see the Marching Colonials perform at half-time for the home football games on October 6 and 28. Everyone is welcome to attend our fall concert on October 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the TJ auditorium. Please visit our website (<http://tjbands.org/>) for information about the TJ Back-to-School Night dinner, TJ license plate frames, White House ornaments, and other TJ Band activities.

### Colonial Athletic Boosters (CAB)

[www.colonialathletics.org](http://www.colonialathletics.org)

Our Fall 2011 sports season is well underway and many teams are enjoying the fruits of their labor – impressive showings and wins!!

*Thank you to all the coaches who work so hard with our student-athletes! And thank you to the parents for cheering their teams on, and volunteering at ticket tables, concessions stands and in other roles!*

Our records show that we are now at 38% total membership across all fall sports, slightly behind our membership rolls at this time last year. Girls Varsity Volleyball leads the membership contest at 73%! Cross Country and Varsity Football are close behind and in hot pursuit! **The first team to reach a 90% membership level lands a \$500 award to their coach to buy any equipment/supplies to help bring home that championship. Second place is \$200.** Contest standings are posted weekly at [www.colonialathletics.org](http://www.colonialathletics.org) -> Boosters -> Contest.

**Please remember the mission of CAB** - To create the BEST Sports Experience for our TJ Community – Students, Parents, Fans and Coaches. This starts with supplementing county budgets in order to maintain safe and proper playing surfaces and gym equipment, and to provide our teams with great TJ uniforms and other accessories.

Memberships begin at \$50/year; higher contributions earn passes to home games and other perks! Join at: [www.colonialathletics.org](http://www.colonialathletics.org) -> booster membership.

***We love volunteers!*** Many are needed to run a successful sports program: concessions (profits go 100% to athletics), ticket sales, announcing,

merchandise sales, etc. **Show your son or daughter you support him/her!** Contact your individual team liaison, or our liaison coordinator, Michelle Engler, ([englermd at gmail.com](mailto:englermd@gmail.com)) or CAB president, Steve Mazur ([sfmazur7 at gmail.com](mailto:sfmazur7@gmail.com)). All team liaison names and contact information can be found on our website: [www.colonialathletics.org](http://www.colonialathletics.org). We are also looking for CAB committee chairs; for a full listing, please go to [the CAB website](#) and look under "Volunteer Opportunities."

*And now for the team news...*

**Varsity Cheer:** Tryouts for the varsity team were extended into September and we are happy to have **Sarah Shan** join the varsity team. The varsity cheerleading team welcomed the new freshmen during the Freshmen Orientation and continues to pump up the crowd and cheer on our football team. Together with the new mascot this year, they show their spirit by getting the crowd involved. The varsity cheerleaders are working hard on their stunting and tumbling skills and their competition routine as they prepare for their upcoming district semi-final and final competitions. Plan ahead and come on out to support the team at the Liberty District semi-finals on October 19 at Fairfax High School and at the District Finals on October 26 at South Lakes. *Come show your school spirit and support for TJ's varsity cheer!*



Varsity Cheer team at the first home football game.

**JV Cheer:** Try-outs were extended into September and four additional students made the JV team, for a total of 11 JV cheerleaders this season. The JV team welcomes **Claudia Lovegrove, Allison Ko, Coco Chen** and **Taylor Quinn** to the team. The cheerleaders just completed their camp and learned new cheers and chants. They are cheering at the JV

football games every week and pumping the crowd with lots of school spirit.

Both the varsity and JV cheerleading teams will soon start selling "Dinner and a Movie" fundraising cards. The cards include the Papa John's Pizza deal that they sold last year, along with hundreds of other discounts. *Please support the cheer program by participating in this great fundraiser!*

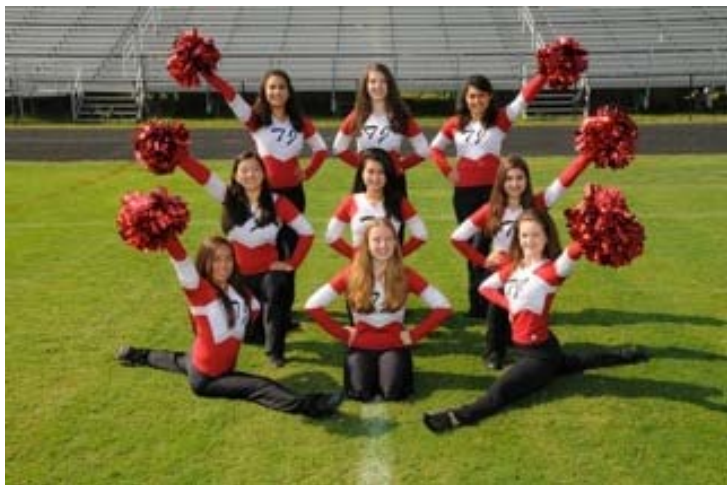
**Cross Country:** TJ's runners had strong showings at their first three invitational meets. On September 1st, the PR Invitational featured Boys and Girls racing in Freshman, Sophomore and Upperclass sections. Sections were scored individually, then the finishing times were combined for an "overall" score. The Varsity Boys and the Freshman Girls won their races. The Varsity Boys were led by pack runners **Mike Wattendorf, Andrew O'Shea, Dan Matson, Jacob Zucker, Dylan Keightly** and **Elliot Simon**. On the Freshman Girls side, **Katrina Junta, Haley Stumvol, Emily Moschella, Mary Pollin, Maddie Zug** and **Anna Malhotra** all placed in the top 20. The Boys Freshman and the Boys Sophomore teams both placed third in their races to help the Boys Team win the overall Team Championship. Freshman **Chris Blagg** was runner-up in his race. The Girls Varsity, led by **Katherine Sheridan, Taylor Reffett, Sarah Nielsen** and **Elizabeth Ellor** finished second, only four points behind West Potomac.

On September 14, the JV boys won their division at the Monroe-Parker Invitational, having the top 7 finishers in the event (**Ned Danyliw, Matt Baron, Matt Wattendorf, Kyler Blodgett, Luke Kuprenas, Nick Haliday** and **Sebastian Lerner**). The Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys, and JV Girls all placed third in their respective divisions, with the JV girls led by **Rachel Lavery**, who took 2nd in her race. The Oatlands Invitational on September 17 provided the toughest competition (over 40 teams) to date, with Katrina Junta (1st) and **Aparajita Sur** (3rd) leading the JV Girls Underclassmen to a first place finish. The JV Boys Upperclassmen finished 2nd (led by Kyler Blodgett and Sebastian Lerner), and the JV Boys Underclassmen finished 4th (led by Luke Kuprenas and Matt Wattendorf). Each of these races had hundreds of runners, and TJ's runners did a great job sticking together in each event.

TJXC runners and parents are reminded to check the website regularly, and encouraged to view pictures and race results on [www.milestat.com](http://www.milestat.com).

**Varsity Dance:** The Varsity Dance Team is so happy to welcome back **Coach Melissa Weber** for the 2011-2012 season. The members of the Varsity Dance Team are: Seniors **Amelia Dahl** (Captain), **Debs King**, **Vicky Kelley**, **Yasmine McBride** (Captain), **Suganya Sridharma**, **Sydney Ulrich-Dogunniuck** (Captain); Juniors **Amanda Infeld**, **Stephanie Levin** (Captain), **Katrina McTigue**, **Stephanie Nguyen**, **Sekar Novika**; Sophomores **Wendy Guo**, **Soumya Mishra**, **Christin Park**; and Freshmen **Olivia Moffet**, **Katya Plotnitskaya**, **Alexis Williams** and **Lindsey Williams**.

The Dance Team will be performing at home football and basketball games this year. We also have three regional competitions on our schedule. The team is very excited about their new jazz routine – choreography contributed by an anonymous donor. Thank you so much. We are looking forward to a fun and rewarding season of TJ Dance. *Thanks to the TJ community for your support!!*



Varsity Dance Team

**Varsity Field Hockey:** After tallying one win and three losses in the Lee High School *Under The Lights Tournament*, the Varsity Field Hockey team, coached by **Amanda Kelly**, has won 4 out of the last 6 games. The five seniors on the team **Rheem Brooks**, **Katy Burgio**, **Helen Hastings**, **Allie Ivener** and **Caroline Woods** are joined by juniors **Lubya Bolkhovitinov**, **Laura Brouckman**, **Annie Burch**, **Karen Clark**, **Molly Hemenway**, **Kleo Greenwood**, **Lucia Lee**, **Brittany Peck**, **Julia Ruth**, **Trica Tran** and **Ceci Vollbrecht**, and sophomores **Izzy Roscoe**, **Emily**

**Schneider**, **Florencia Son** and **Lizzy Woods**. In the upcoming weeks, the team will face five of their six district opponents. In addition, Senior Night was celebrated at TJ on September 30, before the game against Hayfield Secondary. *Go TJFH!*



The Varsity Field Hockey players are completely drenched after playing two tournament games in the pouring rain as Hurricane Irene approached.

**JV Field Hockey:** The JV Field Hockey team continues to improve with each game. This team is comprised of eleven freshmen, many of whom are playing for the first time: **Andrea Donate-Perez**, **Raewyn Haines**, **Carolina Hatanpää**, **Kiley Jarymiszyn**, **Alexis Jenkins**, **Sonia Jindal**, **Jenny Kim**, **Shilpa Kunnappillil**, **Rhea Sharma**, **Carly Springer** and **Anna Tursi**. Four sophomores joined this year: **Tessa Muss**, **Manotri Chaubal**, **Ellen Mulé** and **Madie Reinsel**. These players have provided instant positive impact on the field. The team is led by four returning players: **Nadège Aoki**, **Clara Pitts**, **Priya Seetharaman** and **Quinnlan Sweeney**. The team has been greatly assisted by **Tara Gupta** as the team manager.

The JV team had two close games against Edison and Centreville but after playing strong they suffered a loss. They battled back against Falls Church in a decisive 4-0 victory. The JV's toughest competition came against Langley. After an impressive display of defense, the team lost 2-0. The team has been led by the consistent play of the three captains: Priya Seetharaman has posted three shut outs with the assistance of Quinnlan Sweeney on defense, and Clara Pitts continues to be a leader on offense providing goals and assists in several games.

*(photo on next page)*



JV Field Hockey team.

**Varsity Football:** Despite a heart-breaking 37-35 homecoming loss to Jeb Stuart High, Thomas Jefferson opened this year's varsity football season in impressive fashion, outscoring opponents 120-72 in the first four games. The Colonials overwhelmed Falls Church 37-0 and Wakefield 26-7, while losing the squeaker to Jeb Stuart and to Langley 28-12.

Impressive as these numbers are, more inspiring is the way TJ responded to the loss of starting quarterback **Kevin Karn**, whose knee was badly damaged in the Falls Church game. Karn's talents both passing and running had kept opposition defenses on edge, and the Colonials needed to find a new game plan after losing Karn.

By the homecoming game against Jeb Stuart, the Colonials had clearly found their offensive rhythm, a balanced run-pass attack. **Patrick O'Connor**, a bull of a runner who may be the strongest man on the team, rushed for two touchdowns, while new starting quarterback **Nick Mattes** threw two TDs, one to **Ed Kai** and one to **Luke Birch**. O'Connor himself threw to **Mike MacCannon** for the fifth TD, in a surprise play meant to catch the Stuart Raiders off guard.

The previous week, against Wakefield, TJ experimented with an all-run game, with great success, scoring five rushing touchdowns. O'Connor was the workhorse, racking up three touchdowns and a total of 134 rushing yards. Demonstrating the team's running depth, **Patrick Yu** and **Daniel Noh** each rushed for a touchdown, and **Rashad Laher** carried the ball ten times for 53 yards.

The Colonials' first game after Karn's injury, against Langley, was a time of regrouping. The team was lackluster during the first half but after halftime was a team transformed. The defense penetrated at the line and covered Langley in the backfield like a wet

blanket, holding the Saxons to a single score in the half.

The offense showed skill on the ground and in the air. O'Connor rushed over and over for positive yardage, while backup-turned-starting quarterback Nick Mattes, with strong protection by his line, connected again and again with receivers. In one delightful third-quarter play, Mattes scampered away from half-a-dozen would-be tacklers, zigging and zagging across the field, and then rifled the ball to Luke Birch, who added on another 20 yards, taking the ball to the Saxon 3-yard line. O'Connor plunged across the goal line on the next play.

Langley gave an amusing tribute early in the fourth quarter to TJ runner **Nathan Kim**, who had averaged 25 yards per kickoff return earlier in the game. Having just scored a touchdown, the Saxons made an on-side kickoff, an inexplicable tactic for a team leading 21-6 unless one assumes Langley desperately wanted to keep the ball away from Kim.

The Colonials clearly controlled the second half of the game, and the final 28-12 score somehow did not feel like a total loss.

At press time, it is reported that Kevin Karn's knee surgery was successful; now the rehabilitation begins. For the team, Karn has set a standard of excellence which will serve the Colonials well this year. Indeed, in a tribute to Karn that reverses the tradition of retiring a departed star's jersey number, TJ now makes sure that Karn's #7 will be worn in every game. Against Stuart, it was worn by Ed Kai; against Wakefield, by O'Connor.

#### FAIRFAX TIMES STORY ON TJ FOOTBALL

On Sept. 9 the Fairfax Times ran a story on TJ football, 'A football awakening at Jefferson.' The story includes quotes from TJ offensive guard **Ryan Tasker-Benson** "When we went into this season, we wanted to take the step of competing into pulling ahead and winning" and from **Coach Kincaid** "We basically doubled in strength in the offseason through weight room work. This got the team thinking they could compete."

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

**JV Football:** The team opened the 2011 season with a scrimmage against the Falls Church Jaguars and showed they will be a force to be reckoned with this year. The Colonials were impressive on both sides of the ball, tallying four touchdowns and holding the Jaguars scoreless. The offense moved the ball consistently on the ground and “threw in” a few completed passes to keep the Falls Church defense off balance. The TJ defense completely shut down the Jaguars running game and intercepted four passes to foil their passing attack. Lee (the tropical storm, not the high school) stymied the Colonials the following week as the second scrimmage against Langley was cancelled due to the unplayable field conditions. The Colonials picked up their first victory of the season the next week against Wakefield, albeit by a forfeit. The team looks forward to testing its mettle on the field against some tough opponents in the coming weeks and maintaining their undefeated record!

**Freshman Football:** The football season is in full swing and our team is making tremendous strides both playing and understanding the game. Nearly 80% of the boys had never played the game and with the guidance of **Coach Rapp** and **Coach Scott** the team is getting stronger every week. The team continues to grow in numbers and we are currently up to 26 solid players.

Our first game was at home against Wakefield. Though we lost, it was a very tight game. The boys worked harder than they ever had and were very positive after the game. They are looking forward to the next game to show just how much they are improving. Coach Rapp and Coach Scott are looking forward to helping the boys achieve new levels both personally and as a team!



Freshman Football Team at a scrimmage.

**Varsity Co-Ed Golf:** The Thomas Jefferson golf team completed their best season since 1993 with a third-place finish at the very competitive Liberty District two-day tournament at the Herndon Centennial Golf Course.

Each school is allowed to send six golfers to the district tournament with the four lowest golfers' scores each day added together to represent the team score. The six players representing TJ were freshman **Julie Luo**, juniors **Taylor Culman**, **Alex Dalzell**, **Sean McElrath** and **Alexander Sands**, and senior **Mike Serron**.

Freshman Julie Luo claimed top overall honors, winning the tournament with her low score of 142 for 36 holes. The boys are all rooting for her to “fore-peat” her victory at districts by placing first in this tournament all four years she attends TJ. Julie will now move on to regional play on October 3 and 4.

The tournament was senior captain Mike Serron's last match as a TJ golfer, but he has promised to come back next year to watch this very talented group of younger golfers go even further in district play as they continue to improve.

*The team gives a very large thank you to **Coach John Myers** and **Assistant Coach Heidi Smith** for leading them to a successful season! The team is grateful to the TJ Staff and Administration for supporting the team, and to the parents and fans who cheered them on.*

**Girls' Golf:** After the exciting Kickoff Event on August 17 at Twin Lakes, Girls' Golf has been on a winning streak. The team started out with the first match against Langley on August 28 at our home course Pinecrest (191 - 192), the second against Stuart at Pinecrest on August 29 (198 - 210), and the third match against Woodson on August 30, also at Pinecrest (172 - 202). The team's winning streak was temporarily interrupted with losses to Woodson and Langley on September 19 at Burke Lake Park (125 - 121). On September 19, which also was Senior Day, the team's seniors **Jennifer Hwang**, **Ellen Nguyen** and **Sarah Bok** were all present and were honored by **Coach Steve Myers** with red carnations.

The Girls' Golf team played one final match against South Lakes on September 22 at Reston National, before their pre-qualifying 9-hole events at Twin

Lakes on September 26 and October 5. The 18-hole state-qualifying event this year will be held on October 18 at Twin Lakes – *Good luck to everyone!*



Front: Aarthi Prakash, senior Ellen Nguyen, Hana Chan, senior Jennifer Hwang; Back: Coach Steve Myers, Toni Stapleton, Julie Luo, Anne Li and Coach John Myers.

**Varsity Volleyball:** With every game, these Lady Colonials seem to get better and better! Their 10-5 season record rounded off with a nail-biter of a match against Herndon High School on September 19. In the 1<sup>st</sup> annual VolleyBRAWL tournament hosted by Washington-Lee High School, and this team's second tournament appearance, our girls placed second, after an undefeated pool-play record, to Lake Braddock. **Maggie Engler** and **Maria Velicu** showed powerful outside hitting skill, while middles **Care Shoaibi** and **Christina Shincovich** shut down the opposition with roof-shattering blocks. Libero and team captain **Nicole Gonzalez** is relentless on serve receive, keeping our offense well in system, while defensive specialists **Anna Hicks** and **Schylar Pa** make great reads on hitters to keep our offense at its best. Every player on this team is needed to pull out every win, and **Helen Li**, **Nancy Wang**, **Allison Wang** and **Stefanie Van Rafelghem** have stepped up to the plate every chance they get. Their versatility and enthusiasm is infectious and inspiring. **Jessica Sun** ably steps in as setter or defensive specialist, and Co-Captain **Angela Liu** always sets, defends, and serves to win. This team shows great promise for the rest of the season.

Please come out to support this outstanding Volleyball program, led by **Coaches Helen Smith** and **Annie Baratto**. We actually DID come here for the sports!



Varsity Volleyball wins 2nd Place in the Washington-Lee Generals VolleyBRAWL tournament!

**JV Volleyball:** JV Volleyball, led by **Coach Casey Smith**, has a 4-2 record so far this season. Middle hitter **Melanie Pillar** and outside hitter **Kirsten Cardinal** bring a strong offensive edge for this team, while libero **Mya Abousi** shows stellar defensive performances game after game. **Michelle Wang** is a steady and dependable player, with consistent passing, serving and hitting. **Dorothy Wang** shows great improvement in hitting and defense, solidifying her spot on the court for the last few wins this season, and setter **Amanda Nguyen** assists her team in every aspect of the game. Hitters **Yihemba Yikona**, **Rachel Iwicki**, **Jenny Seo** and **Maddy Martin** have improved tremendously over the course of the season, stepping up offensively whenever they are needed for the kills. **Gloria Cho** and **Emmelyn Luu** have shown outstanding skill on serve receive and defense, and are dependable members of this winning team. Along with hitter, **Olivia Sullivan**, all these girls have learned so much and improved greatly.

**Freshman Volleyball:** The team had a very impressive and successful start, winning five of their first six matches this season. Under the guidance of **Coaches Scott Campbell** and **Helen Smith**, the players have shown great improvement in their volleyball skills since the team started practicing in August. The team's successful run has been led by captains **Alexis Gillmore** and **Aliana Gungor**. These two players have shown impressive passing, setting and serving ability; most importantly, they provide steady leadership for the team. The consistency of **Katie Cox**'s dynamite serve and front row performance, **Julia Dunbar**'s skills as a setter and hitter and **Callan Monette**'s strong serve and back row play have all been key to the team's successes. Other strong hitting performances by **Tara Abrishami**, **Heather Lukas**, **Sreya Addanki** and

**Yuqian Yang** have helped this young Colonials team. In the front row, **Sophie Bennett**, **Jenny Fang** and **Sara Mueller** are making notable contributions to the team.

## *Crew Boosters*



Crew Board's monthly business meeting will be held on October 12 in Room 106 at 7:00 p.m. If you'd like to be on the Agenda, email TJ Crew

President Dave Nuckols at [TJCrewPresident at gmail.com](mailto:TJCrewPresident@gmail.com). TJ Crew Family Interest Night will be held on October 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Prospective new rowers and their parents should plan to attend this important meeting to learn about TJ's Crew team and the 2011-2012 rowing season.

TJ Crew's Annual Boathouse Open House will be held on Saturday, October 29 from 1-3:00 p.m. at Sandy Run Regional Park. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to visit TJ's Boathouse and to actually row in a 60 foot long, 8+ person racing shell on the Occoquan. See what team rowing is all about!

Attention all gardeners! Here's a chance to get your Fall planting started and to help TJ Crew at the same time. TJ Crew Boosters are selling Merrifield Garden Center gift cards. The cards make great gifts, may be used at all 3 MGC locations (Merrifield, Fair Oaks, and Gainesville), and they never expire! Cards are available in \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$500 values so there is a card to fit every project! Orders may be placed by emailing [tjcrewgiftcards at gmail.com](mailto:tjcrewgiftcards@gmail.com). Please include your name, phone, and amount.

Please contact Head Coach Bill Randall at [cjsb at verizon.net](mailto:cjsb@verizon.net) or TJ Crew President Dave Nuckols at [TJCrewPresident at gmail.com](mailto:TJCrewPresident@gmail.com) with any questions.

## **Crew Alumni News**

Here's some exciting news from TJ Crew Alumni at the Under 23 and Senior World Championships!

At the Under 23 World Championships on Lake Bled in Slovenia, the US U23 Men's Eight won gold with **Ty Otto** (TJ 2007) in the 5 seat. That caps a season for Ty that also includes winning the Intercollegiate Rowing Association (IRA) Championship. The US U23 Women's Eight took the bronze with **Kelly**

**Pierce** (TJ 2008) in the boat. That caps a season for Kelly that includes the NCAA win for her at Princeton. On September 19, **Phil Grisdella** (TJ 2008) was 3rd in the B Final in the Lightweight Pair.

At the **Senior World Championships**, which were held in Amsterdam, the US Women's Lightweight Quadruple scull won a bronze medal with **Nicole Dinion** (TJ 2005) in the 2 seat. **Christian Klein** (TJ 2007) was the 3 seat in the US Lightweight Eight that also competed.

## *Orchestra Boosters*

Support the TJ Orchestras!

Our next booster meeting is on Tuesday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Principal's Conference Room (near the Aud Lob). See the orchestra website to volunteer to help with the concert and post concert reception: <http://arts.tjhsst.edu/orchestra/booster.php>. The first concert is in the auditorium on Wednesday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Questions? Email Barbara Steele at [jbstele5 at verizon.net](mailto:jbstele5@verizon.net).

## *Theatre Boosters*

Theatre Boosters held its first meeting September 19. We have a lot planned for this coming year, and parent support is always needed. We hope to see you at our next meeting on **October 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library**.

Returning drama students and incoming freshmen had a great time at the annual Drama Picnic hosted by the Board of Advisors on September 3.

Casts have been chosen for both *War At Home* and *Too Clever by Half or The Diary of a Scoundrel*.

*War At Home* is TJHSST's entry for the Virginia Theatre Association's competition, which will be held in Reston October 28 – 30. Thirty students and five techs will represent our school. The play, directed by **Vincent Pollet**, is an ensemble drama about a group of students in a NY high school 100 miles north of Ground Zero responding to the events of September 11, 2001. The text was compiled from journal

writings of students, teachers, and community members in the weeks immediately following 9/11.

Drama's Fall production, *Too Clever by Half*, will be directed by Mr. Pollet and Student Director, Senior **Rebecca Edelstein**. The show will be performed at TJ November 18 and 19. Mark your calendars and come support our talented drama students by joining us either night!

Shakespeare Troupe (an 8<sup>th</sup> period activity) is making plans for Froshfest and will perform *The Tempest*. All interested students are welcome to join them.

Visit [www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/theatreboosters/](http://www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/theatreboosters/) for more information on TJ drama, or email us at [tj.theatreboosters@gmail.com](mailto:tj.theatreboosters@gmail.com).

## Announcements and Information

### A New Way to Order Yearbooks for the 2011-2012 school year

The way that you will purchase your student's publications package has been revolutionized! Instead of sending checks to school, you will be contacted directly by Herff Jones, our yearbook publishing company, via the USPS. You can fill out the form and mail it directly to Herff Jones, or you can go online and order your publications package using a debit or credit card. Information should be coming to your mailboxes soon!

You can order your publications package with a name plate until December 2. After December 2, the name plate option will no longer be available, but you will still order your publications package by sending a check to Herff Jones or going online.

If you have any questions regarding the purchase of your student's publications package, please contact **Erinn Harris** at [Eharris1@fcps.edu](mailto:Eharris1@fcps.edu).

### TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair 2012

This year's Science and Engineering Fair will be on Friday and Saturday, February 3-4 in the cafeteria. In case of a weather closing, the fair will be held the following weekend on February 10-11.

Students who are interested in participating should start exploring the possibility *now*. Here are some points that a potential science fair participant must keep in mind before undertaking a project:

**First, find a faculty sponsor for your project.** All project work must be done under adult supervision. Arrange for a TJ teacher to serve as a sponsor and do this as soon as possible, *before* any project work begins. The teacher will help you ensure that all safety aspects of experimentation are addressed, as well as review your paperwork.

**Look for the required forms, schedules, and hints for success on Blackboard.** All students have access to the Blackboard organization called *TJ Science and Engineering Fair*.

**Remember that most forms must be completed and signed BEFORE experimentation begins** (that is, before you collect any data).

All "sensitive" or "hazardous" projects must be submitted to Room 121W no later than noon on Monday, November 14; remember to allow time for your sponsor to review paperwork prior to submission. The SRC/IRB must approve your proposal *before* you begin experimentation or data collection.

**ISEF forms for projects that are not sensitive** are due in Room 121WK on Monday, January 9.

Because TJ's Fair is the first step on the path to the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) to be held in Pittsburgh in May, we comply with all ISEF rules and guidelines for our local fair.

Anyone who has questions about participation should come to Room 121WK and see **Mrs. Luxenberg** or **Mrs. Curtis** or e-mail Mrs. Luxenberg at [Susan.Luxenberg@fcps.edu](mailto:Susan.Luxenberg@fcps.edu).

Parents interested in being judges and who would be available on the morning of February 4 (or on the snow date February 11) should e-mail Mrs. Curtis at [Jane.Curtis@fcps.edu](mailto:Jane.Curtis@fcps.edu).

## **tjSTAR 2012: Off to a Great START!**

Despite last month's blitz of natural disasters, planning is off to a great start for the 4th Annual tjSTAR Symposium, scheduled for May 30, 2012. **Mr. Otani, Mr. Stueben** and our four amazing senior leaders have returned to help plan this year's event, with the recent addition of **Ms. Gutierrez**, a new staff member.

The tjSTAR Steering Committee is looking for students, especially Sophomores and Juniors, to take on leadership roles, like testing ideas for Design Challenges, writing outreach letters, and spreading the word at school through posters, announcements and videos. This month, we are beginning outreach to speakers, guests and panelists to make this year's programming an even greater experience for the TJ community.

If you personally know or can recommend any speakers, guests and panelists who would be a great fit for tjSTAR, please let us know! Also, if you are interested in helping organize this year's event, please reach out to [tjstarcommittee at gmail.com](mailto:tjstarcommittee@gmail.com) or call (703) 750-8339. We look forward to working with you on another successful year of tjSTAR!

Faculty Sponsors: **Koji Otani, Mike Stueben, Kayla Gutierrez.**

Student Leaders: **James Graham ('12), Vansh Kumar ('12), Lizaveta Miadzvedskaya ('12), Ben Silverman ('12).**

## **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!

## **Useful Links**

**TJHSST Home Page:** [www.tjhsst.edu/](http://www.tjhsst.edu/)  
**TJ PTSA website:**  
[www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsa](http://www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsa)

TJ PTSA President: Denise Bunting  
[ptsa.president at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.president@tjhsst.edu)

Vice President: Celeste Fritzson  
[ptsa.firstvp at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.firstvp@tjhsst.edu)

Vice President: Amy Shaw  
[ptsa.secondvp at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.secondvp@tjhsst.edu)

Treasurer: Frances Kim  
[ptsa.treasurer at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.treasurer@tjhsst.edu)

Recording Secretary: Sara Schneider  
[ptsa.recordingsecretary at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.recordingsecretary@tjhsst.edu)

Corresponding Secretary: Robin Hatanpää  
[ptsa.correspondingsecretary at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.correspondingsecretary@tjhsst.edu)

Tech cetera Editor: Gail Brodfuehrer  
[ptsa.newsletter at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.newsletter@tjhsst.edu)

### **TJ Booster Organizations:**

**Academic Boosters:**

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

**Athletic Boosters:** [www.colonialathletics.org](http://www.colonialathletics.org)

**Band Boosters:** [www.tjbands.org](http://www.tjbands.org)

**Choral Boosters:** [www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/fa/choir](http://www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/fa/choir)

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

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

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

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

**TJ Alumni Association:** [www.tjhsstalumni.org](http://www.tjhsstalumni.org)

**Other:**

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

**FCPS Keep in Touch (KIT):** [www.fcps.edu/kit](http://www.fcps.edu/kit)

**FCPS School Board:** [www.fcps.edu/schlbld](http://www.fcps.edu/schlbld)

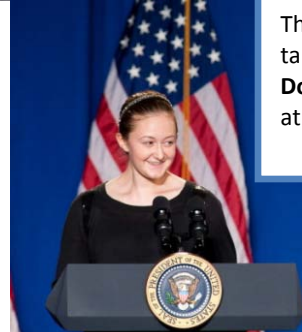
**Fairfax County Supervisors:**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/)

## Noteworthy Dates

October 2011	November 2011
<b>1</b> <b>Open House-TJ Admissions, 8am</b>	<b>4</b> <b>PTSA Coffee and Meeting, 9am in Cafeteria</b>
5 Band Spaghetti Dinner, 5pm in Cafeteria	<b>7</b> <b>Teacher Workday, No School</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Back-to-School Night &amp; PTSA Meeting, 6:30pm in Auditorium</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Teacher Workday, No School</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Columbus Day – School Holiday</b>	9 Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library
<b>12</b> <b>PSAT – Early Release</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Crew Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Room 106</b>
12 Parents for Safe Teen Driving, 6:30pm in Lecture Hall	9 Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
12 Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library	11 National Merit Semi-Finalist Reception, 1pm in Auditorium
12 Crew Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Room 106	11 Powder Puff Game, 7pm
12 Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center	15 Academic Booster’s Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
13 Spanish Honor Society Dinner, 5:30pm in Cafeteria	17 Fall Sports Awards Banquet, 6pm in Cafeteria
14 STEMbassador Orientation, 9am in Lecture Hall	18 Drama Fall Show, 7pm
17 Theatre Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library	19 Drama Fall Show, 7pm
18 Orchestra Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Principal’s Conference Room	21 Theatre Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library
19 Crew Family Interest Night, 7pm in Cafeteria	21 Crew Winter Conditioning Begins, 4-6pm in Cafeteria
19 ANGP Meeting, 7pm in Career Center	21 Meet the Coaches Night, 7pm in Auditorium
20 Academic Boosters Team presentations for funding requests, 7pm in Room 243	22 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center
25 Band Concert, 7pm in Auditorium	<b>23</b> <b>Two Hours Early Release for Thanksgiving Break</b>
25 Academic Boosters Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center	<b>24</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day, No School</b>
26 Orchestra Concert, 7pm in Auditorium	<b>25</b> <b>Thanksgiving Break, No School</b>
28 Senior/Freshman Halloween Soc Hop, 9pm	30 Orchestra Booster’s Meeting, 7:30pm in Principal’s Conference Room
29 Crew Boathouse Open House, Sandy Run Regional Park, 1-3pm	

# PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNS THE *AMERICA INVENTS ACT* AT TJHSST



These photographs were taken by **FCPS** photographer **Donnie Biggs** and are posted at [www.myfcpsphotos.com](http://www.myfcpsphotos.com).



For more photographs of this event, click on the following links: [FCPS photographer](http://FCPSphotographer.com), [Obamadiary.com](http://Obamadiary.com), [UPI.com](http://UPI.com), [AP images](http://APimages.com), [Annandale Patch](http://AnnandalePatch.com), [localKicks](http://localKicks.com).

Click on the following links to watch YouTube videos of the event:  
[President Barack Obama Signs the America Invents Act](#)  
[The "Little Guy" With the Hair](#)

**Rebecca Hyndman**, who obtained a patent in 2010 for her Under-Floor Storage invention, introduced **President Obama**. Also sharing the stage was **Karishma Popli**, who obtained a "One Question" grant to provide solar powered lamps to students at a village school in India. SGA President **Helen Hastings** spoke to the audience of seniors, faculty, Cabinet members, Senators, Congressmen and business leaders before President Obama arrived. Prior to his speech, the President watched **Meghan Clark** and **Nathan Hughes** demonstrate the FIRST Robot, a robot created in the prototyping and robotics senior research labs. He also talked to **Alexandria Sutton** about her remote sensing buoy, created in the oceanography, prototyping and energy systems labs; to **Bina Kakusa** and **Connor Hann** about the neuroscience wheelchair; and to **Nicholas Allegro**, **Chris Mills** and **Brett Offutt** about the TJ Cubesat satellite project.

On the afternoon of the President's visit, **TJ hosted John Feal of the FealGood Foundation**, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about the health care issues of 9/11 First Responders. At the event, organized by SGA President Helen Hastings and the SGA, First Responders Mr. Feal, together with Joe Wittelder, Mike Kenny and Glen Klein, shared their stories with a welcoming and enthusiastic audience of more than 500 students and faculty. At the close of the proceedings, Helen Hastings presented Mr. Deal with approximately 900 letters written by TJ students expressing their gratitude for the First Responders' service to our nation.

Photos by **Max Reinsel** (2012).



# HOMECOMING RALLIES 2011



SGA President **Helen Hastings** and Vice President **Allison Chou** lead the rally; Seniors brandish light sabers



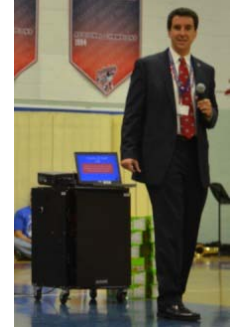
Freshman Musical Ex



Varsity Cheer Team



Senior Musical Ex



Dr. **Glazer** hosts TJ Jeopardy



Sophomore Musical Ex



Junior Musical Ex



Varsity Dance Team



Junior Musical Ex



Senior Togas!



Football team members are announced



Class Floats: Seniors, To Infinity and Beyond; Juniors, It's on YouTube;



Sophomores, Escape from the Jungle;



Freshmen, Blast from the Past

## TJ Free Money Survey

**Please complete the survey on the other side.**

Return the form to the Free Money Table at Back to School Night or to the Front Office.



**Giant**

A+

bonus bucks

(TJHSST's ID = 02307)

Please print your last name.

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Fill in your 10-digit telephone number (if we need to contact you)

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Clearly fill in your 12-digit Giant Food Bonus card number.

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-OR-

if you don't know your Bonus Card number,  
we can get it with your telephone number

Which school(s) would you like to receive you're A+ Bonus Bucks?  
(you can choose up to 2)

Thomas Jefferson High School

\_\_\_\_\_

**If you don't have a Giant Food Bonus card, complete an application at any Giant Food Store. Once you have the Bonus Card number, you can enroll into the A-plus program**

Where do you shop for groceries? (check all that apply)

- BJ's       Bloom       Costco       Food Lion       Giant Food  
 Harris Teeter       Safeway       Shopper's       Trader Joe's       Wegmans  
 Whole Foods       Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is your PRIMARY store to shop for groceries? (check only one)

- BJ's       Bloom       Costco       Food Lion       Giant Food  
 Harris Teeter       Safeway       Shopper's       Trader Joe's       Wegmans  
 Whole Foods       Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you shop at Giant Food?

- Yes       Just a little       Never

(Go no further; just send this survey back to school)

Are you familiar with the A+ Bonus Bucks program run by Giant Food?

- Yes       No

If you are part of the A+ Bonus Bucks program, every time you shop at Giant Food, the school you designate will receive funds from Giant Food based on the total purchase amount of all registered parents. This does not cost you a cent.

Did you know that even if you shop at Giant Food infrequently, it still adds up?

- Yes       No

Giant Food distributes \$300,000 monthly to area schools based on the purchases made by that school's registered shoppers. Each school's earnings are calculated by that school's monthly total in comparison with other schools - so if you don't register, we won't get the credit and it goes to other schools.

Did you know that you have to re-register your Bonus Card every year?

- Yes       No

This is the only step which has to be taken. Once signed up, you're good for the rest of the current school year.

Have you re-registered your Bonus Card yet?

- Yes       No

(You're done. Please send this form back to school.)

Would you like the school to re-register your Bonus Card?

- Yes       No, I'll do it myself at [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus)

Fill out the form on the back

(You're done but please send this form back to school for our survey.)