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# Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology



## Tech cetera

February  
2012

<http://www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsa/newsletter.htm>

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### Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Students,

As we launch into the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, we are full swing into the science competitions that showcase the mission of our school. Congratulations to our 11 Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalists, part of a group of 300 students chosen for their accomplishments in the classroom and in their research. The Intel Science Talent Search is the most prestigious science competition in the country for high school science students. These students' projects are inspiring, often involving many hours of dedicated effort that result in new ideas to advance a field of science and engineering. Students can view some of these projects at the TJ Science Fair on February 8 during 8<sup>th</sup> period. The science fair is a great opportunity for students to obtain feedback from professionals so they can improve their work and learn ways to build upon their research in the future. In addition, younger students can learn from our experienced student researchers about the steps they took to obtain various opportunities throughout their TJ career. Later this semester, on May 30, all of our students will share their research in our

annual full day symposium, tjSTAR. At tjSTAR, there will be guest presenters, technology demonstrations and design challenges, all of which will provide students the opportunity to learn about ideas for future research at TJ and throughout the scientific community.

TJ celebrates Service Week this month, starting on February 18, with an array of activities to encourage students to give back to their communities. Students and teachers will devise approaches to give back in different ways, driven by the leadership of our SGA and ideas generated through student-led clubs. Why not think of a service idea in your family? Chores do not count! I encourage you to have conversations at home about the value of social responsibility and how sharing your knowledge and talents can improve the quality of others' lives. This period of time is also a great opportunity to get involved in our STEMbassadors program, where students volunteer in their local elementary schools as coaches, tutors, and mentors. Please view the [TJ homepage](#) for more details.

I encourage you to attend our PTSA meeting, on February 2, where there will be an

opportunity to engage a panel of students, teachers and parents regarding the issue of academic integrity. We need to feel comfortable talking about the ethical dilemmas our students sometimes face in their lives; this will help them learn how to address those issues and to maintain a culture of integrity, as set forth in the TJ Honor Code.

Don't hesitate to contact me at [Evan.Glazer at fcps.edu](mailto:Evan.Glazer@fcps.edu) if you have ideas to make TJ an even better place for learning and growing. Stay warm or make snow angels.

Sincerely yours,

**Evan Glazer**  
Principal, TJHSST



## President's Message

On Friday, January 20, at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> period, the halls and classrooms of TJ reverberated with Bon Jovi's song lyrics "Woah, we're halfway there... Take my hand, and we'll make it I swear...." Being a teen back in the 80's, I loved that song, but being a parent of two TJ kids now, it brought a smile to my face as I thought of our hardworking students. They are halfway through their school year, and are lucky to have the support of their teachers, counselors, administrators and parents, whenever it is needed.

Last month I wrote about our seniors, who are enjoying their remaining months at TJ. This month, I'd like to address parents of 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders about JUNIOR YEAR! Recently, I attended one of the informative round table discussions organized by PTSA parent liaison Leslie Culman, with **Director of Student Services Brandon Kosatka** and several parents of current juniors. During our discussion, the stigma surrounding the rigor and intense pressure of junior year came up. Many times, while discussing junior year, our physics course is often blamed as the reason why the year is so difficult! But I'd like to take that glaring spotlight off of our physics course and suggest that there are many other factors worth considering. Here are just a few:

\*While PE/Health/Driver's Ed are very important courses, they involve very little homework and only a few tests. Beginning junior year, when students drop PE and add another course to their schedule, there is

usually more homework and there are more tests.

\*Driver's licenses, and the freedom that comes with them, give students more choices pertaining to their free time.

\* The extra time spent studying for and taking one or more SAT or ACT tests can really add up.

\*Some of the junior courses (such as American US History) require a significant amount of reading and analyzing.

\*Senior research labs are being chosen.

\*Of course, the whole college process kicks in during the middle to end of junior year, so there's the added time spent learning about that process.

\*The realization that high school is already more than halfway over. Students begin to try to picture where they are going to be once they graduate, which can be stressful.

\* Students need to know themselves and their limits and not overload their course schedule. Juggling 4 or 5 APs is often too challenging, even for the average TJ student, if combined with other rigorous academic courses.

So, while there is academic pressure, there are also, perhaps, just as many emotional and social issues that our wonderful juniors have to deal with.

There is good news!! The best thing for our students is to know ahead of time to expect some of these factors and to be given the tools to deal with them. How do we do that? It's a team effort between the school and us parents. Our highly skilled and enthusiastic teachers do an outstanding job educating and motivating our students on a daily basis so that our

students will not only enjoy their time in class, but they will also be ready for the next step. Our extremely qualified counselors are there to help the kids with either academic or personal/social issues, and to help them choose a schedule that is the right fit. The Student Services Department has an extremely informative program for parents of juniors (presented in January) that describes the college application process in detail. If you missed the presentation, it is available on power point. Of course, we parents are here to support and encourage our kids. If time management has been a little bit of an issue up until junior year, it will be an even bigger issue during junior year if your child doesn't work on it! Learning effective strategies to manage their time is a life-long skill that will only serve them well! Finally, we can celebrate the fact that our students go to a very unique and exciting school that allows them to pursue their passions on a daily basis, which means we have the pleasure of watching and encouraging them as they learn, mature and grow during their high school journey, rather than focusing only on their destination.

Leslie will be hosting another parent coffee for parents of sophomores on February 24. If you have any questions regarding these coffees, please contact Leslie at [ldupreculman at aol.com](mailto:ldupreculman@aol.com). Also, please know that you can always contact your student's counselor with questions - or even better, encourage your student to talk to his/her counselor!

Remember, course selection is coming up! Mr. Kosatka will be sending out more information regarding curriculum information sessions for

both parents and students. **Make sure you're signed up on Blackboard and FCPS 24/7.** Also, check out the Student Services Corner in this newsletter. Finally, remind your student to “choose wisely.” Sit down with your child and look through the **TJHSST Course Offering Online Guide.** Talk to your child about his or her immediate and even longer-term goals. Review the **AP Course Expectations** and remember that trying to keep too many balls up in the air, between extremely rigorous courses and extracurricular activities, may result in dropping some balls or burn out. Plan ahead and take into consideration what your child can handle - including stress, how much sleep they need and what they need to do to maintain a healthy lifestyle (which includes having fun too!).

This month the TJ PTSA hosted a meeting with Booster presidents/treasurers from four of our Booster groups to discuss a proposal by FCPS to change the way the booster groups handle their finances for funds paid by students for participation in school-sponsored activities, such as marching band and trips required as part of the curriculum. You may have read about this in recent articles in the *Fairfax Times* and the *Washington Post*. FCPS is in the process of writing a draft document that would outline how certain booster funds would be handled, requiring that they be collected by their school's finance office, rather than allowing the boosters to manage their own funds. As you can imagine, this potential loss of control by the boosters regarding how they finance some of their activities has caused many booster groups to become very concerned. We have been told that there will

soon be a meeting held by FCPS with all high school booster clubs to discuss this further. As a result of our meeting at TJ, along with feedback from two of our other booster groups, we compiled a list of several concerns, comments and questions which will be sent to the appropriate FCPS employees. This is a very fluid situation. Stay tuned, we'll keep you posted.

Our next PTSA meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2. **We'll be starting earlier, at 7:00 p.m.,** in order to host a panel discussion regarding ethical violations that occur at TJ, and the resultant consequences. **Assistant Principal Mary Ann Bosley**, who leads the Ethics and Social Responsibility initiative at TJ, will be organizing this important discussion. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Also, check out our new "**Student Safety Programs**" [link](#) on the PTSA website for upcoming programs and videos.

Finally, we are starting the process of selecting a PTSA executive board for next school year. At the meeting on February 2, we will elect the nominating committee, which will identify the slate of candidates. The proposed nominating committee members are Linda Loffredo, Nirmala Sundararaman, Jean Lee, Cindy Hann and Lakshmi Bala. If you are interested in being on the executive committee next year, please contact Sara Schneider at [MEMSofVA at aol.com](mailto:MEMSofVA@aol.com).

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or just want to chat, please contact me or any of the PTSA officers.

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

## PTSA Update

### Landscape Committee

Despite the cold weather, we've done a lot of work on the TJ landscape this January. The Greenhouse Club joined the Cultivators of the Earth Club to mulch the area under the Willow Oaks, and the Greenhouse Courtyard gardens. We also cleaned out the entry to the Greenhouse Courtyard -- removing 6 wheelbarrow loads of old timber and other detritus in preparation for spring's transformation of the courtyard.

Thank you to the Champion Family for repairing 2 unusable wheelbarrows, and to Monica Champion for the continued loan of her wheelbarrow. We couldn't have done all this mulching without these tools!

Did you know the Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) was Thomas Jefferson's favorite tree? He admired the Willow Oak for its stately shape, rapid growth and its beautiful yellow foliage in the fall. According to Peter Hatch, the director of gardens and grounds at Monticello, Jefferson ordered it planted it at

Monticello and along the streets of Washington, D.C. We have two beautiful specimens at the AudLab entrance; two in the Main Courtyard Entrance; two in the Millennium Courtyard; and one huge specimen in the oval grassy area as you drive in from Braddock Road.

Landscapers will be indoors during the month of February, but we will need all hands in March as we get the gardens ready for Spring Bloom. Watch for our bulletins in Tech cetera and on our web page.



Members of the Greenhouse Club



Some student members of the Cultivators of the Earth Club

## Volunteer Corner

It's February and that means it is time to show the TJ community some love by volunteering your time to some of the many wonderful activities we have going on this month. Let our teachers and staff know you care by bringing an entrée or dessert for the Valentine's Teacher Luncheon on February 15. Poonam Nangalia will be happy to provide all the details. You can contact her at [poon\\_deep at yahoo.com](mailto:poon_deep@yahoo.com).

Or if you would like to get out of the house and dance the night away (or supervise those who do), Anita Rezazad is looking for volunteers for the Winter Formal Dance, hosted by the Sophomore class. The dance is from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on February 25. As the dance will be in the main gym, shoes will have to be collected and chaperones are required at all major entrances. Please contact Anita at [arezazad at orchidtech.net](mailto:arezazad@orchidtech.net).

If you like to bake or cook, or you are able to pick something up at the grocery store, please consider making a food donation to the ANGP on June 16. For more details, please contact Priti Jain at [atulpriti at yahoo.com](mailto:atulpriti@yahoo.com).

Remember to check out the [TJ Volunteers website](#) or contact Rajni Goel, Lakshmi Bala or Nancy Roodberg at [ptsavolunteers at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsavolunteers@tjhsst.edu). Thank you!

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).

## Student Services Corner

The Department of Student Services has been busy over the last month finalizing recommendations for seniors, hosting a College Kickoff night for Juniors, and advising all students on their class schedules for the new semester. Thank you, junior parents, for the feedback on the survey for College Kickoff night. Many of your questions have been addressed in an email response to junior parents from **Alexa Scott** on January 24, 2012.

Many parents and students have asked where they can find out more information about course descriptions, credits, weighting, etc. The Department is working on improvements to the *Curriculum Section of the TJHSST* website to make this information easier to find. However, the content is currently online at the [TJHSST Course Offering Online Guide](#). Click on the purple subject tabs, such as "Computer Science, English" etc. for detailed course information. You can dive deeper by clicking again on the course title, such as "Foundations of Computer Science."

The response has been very positive from the *series of Coffees with the Director of Student Services*. While we wish we could accommodate all of you who are interested in attending, the intent of these roundtable discussions is to have a smaller group in order to facilitate a more open dialogue and feedback about the programs and services the Department is offering. However, **Brandon Kosatka** will be addressing common issues that arise in his monthly "eNote" to all parents.

We also welcome any ideas or suggestions you may have at any time. The next coffee will be for Sophomore Parents on February 24. Sign up is open to any parent on a first come first serve basis (limited to 8 parents per meeting) and is available at the PTSA meetings and through blast emails. RSVP to [ldupreeculman at aol.com](mailto:ldupreeculman@aol.com) if interested.

**Upcoming Events - See the calendar for details:**

**Coffee with the Director Student Services:** Friday, February 24, from 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (Sophomore parents).

**Curriculum Night for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade parents:** Thursday, February 16 at 5pm.

**Academic Advising for Students Class of 2013:** February 21-29.

Questions and feedback are welcome! Send an email to either Director of Student Services **Brandon Kosatka** ([bkosatka at fcps.edu](mailto:bkosatka@fcps.edu)) or PTSA Liaison Leslie Culman ([ldupreeculman at aol.com](mailto:ldupreeculman@aol.com)).

## Items of Immediate Interest

### TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair

On **Wednesday, February 8**, TJ will hold the 2012 TJHSST Science and Engineering Fair, beginning after school and ending no later than 7:30 p.m. The fair will be open to the public from 3:10-3:50 p.m. (Period 8B) in TJ's

cafeteria. Visitors are invited to see the projects and talk to students about their research. While we welcome the public to this viewing, we wish everyone to be aware that parking and traffic around the school will be congested during this pre-dismissal time. Public viewing will close promptly at 3:50 p.m. to allow a break for competitors prior to the judging. Guests are also welcome to attend the Awards Ceremony, which will be held in the auditorium on Friday, February 10 from 2:20-3:50 p.m. (Periods 8A and 8B). In case inclement weather causes closure of FCPS facilities on February 8, the fair will be held the following Saturday, February 11.

### International Night (I-Nite)

International Night, or I-Nite, is TJHSST's annual celebration of the many cultures represented at our school. For those of you who have never attended, I-Nite is a colorful variety show consisting of about 25 performances of cultural dance and music. The acts are organized by TJ's culture clubs, and the clubs also sell food in Gym 2 before the show and during intermission. I-Nite has gotten bigger every year; to accommodate the growing audience, and for the first time ever, I-Nite has expanded to two nights this year. The dates are **Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18**. Both shows will be in the auditorium, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending around 10:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale in the cafeteria, during lunch the week of the show. Based on last year's turnout, we expect to sell out both shows during lunch. **Click here for information and updates.**

## 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).

## All Night Graduation Party (ANGP)



We are more than halfway to our goal of having **ALL** our children participate in All Night Grad Party! Now is the time to **DONATE**, **VOLUNTEER** and buy your **TICKET!**

### **VOLUNTEER!**

Did you know that volunteering to work ANGP is the **ONLY** way parents will be allowed to participate?? Every family is expected to have at least one family member participate and **WE NEED YOU!** Sign up now to get your first choice of jobs and shifts. It's **FUN**, so don't be left out! Jobs range from: Activities, Casino, Concierge, Decorations, Food, Security, Store/Raffle, and Wrap-up. Want to Volunteer? **Sign up online!**

## 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! 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 make a donation by check.](#)

## TICKETS!

Does your child already have an ANGP ticket? Historically, about 95% of graduates attend. **Tickets will not be sold at the door!** Tickets are only \$125 and include unlimited activities, food and refreshments, an engraved Jefferson cup, a gift from the “store,” and, above all, a great time with 400+ of your closest friends! No real money is required once inside.

**Ticket order forms are available on the ANGP website**, at the Front Office, or follow us on Facebook/TJ ANGP 2012.

*No student will be denied a ticket due to financial hardship. If funding is a consideration, contact your guidance counselor, who will arrange for your student’s ticket.*

## Student Government Association

SGA held its annual Winter Sports Pep Rally this month. It was a roaring success, with nine teachers involved in the second annual “Dancing with the Faculty” competition. It was a great competition, and after several tough eliminations, the winners were English Teacher **Ms. Orser**, partnered with senior **Thomas Hillenbrand**.

SGA has started planning the annual Middle School Leadership Conference. This conference invites schools from all over the region (not limited to Fairfax County) to select two students and send them to this conference. These students then come to TJ for a weekend to attend workshops, do team building and leadership exercises, and learn how to be better leaders.

## Academic News

### *Latin News*

The TJHSST Latin program has had a very busy December and January! All of the eleven Latin classes celebrated the traditional Roman holiday of **Saturnalia** in December. Following the customs of the Romans, students wrote poems or riddles and exchanged gifts.

The **Latin Honor Society Saturnalia Toy Drive** for a local charity was a marvelous success. Over 6 huge boxes of toys and games were donated by Latin students and presented

to a non-denominational church in mid-December. Thank you to **James Jang** and **Robert Wharton**, LHS Praetors, for organizing the event.

The annual **VJCL Convention Round-Up**, held in mid-January during 8<sup>th</sup> period, celebrated the very successful recent state convention. Awards were distributed to students for the following categories: academics, creative arts, graphic arts, and individual SWEEPSTAKES (overall excellence). A highlight of the Round-Up included creative performances from convention standouts, Robert Wharton and **Hannah Pho**. **Semele Liu** took a second place sweepstakes award, and was the highest award winner from TJ.



**Adam Goldstein, Nolan Katoaka, June Ge and Bobbie Sheng** with their sweepstakes awards from the VJCL Convention.



**Hannah Pho, Robert Wharton, Semele Liu and Amy Chen** display their sweepstakes ribbons from the classics convention.

TJ Latin is looking forward to its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Certamen on February 25, 2012. LHS Co-Consuls, **Ricky Short** and **Jesse Witkowski**, are eagerly planning the event.



AP Latin Students show their spirit!

### *Spanish News*

The **National Spanish Honor Society** members are getting through the winter by looking forward. Many entertaining activities are in the planning stages. Valentine's Day will provide an opportunity for card-making and poetry writing. Great plans are being made for "**Bulería**," the annual semi-formal Latin Dance Party, to be held Friday, March 16.

"Asking week" will be the week before. There will be dance lessons and lots of surprise entertainment so you don't want to miss this exciting event. Spring is also the time for the induction of new members and the application process is already underway. There's never a dull moment in the Spanish corner.

### **Class News**

#### *2012 – Seniors*

It was great to see everyone at Senior Night. Don't forget to order announcements and graduation items from Balfour by mid-February.

Prom will be on Saturday, June 9, 2012, at the Newseum. Prom will be free of charge. Dinner will not be included; dessert will be available. The Prom Committee is looking for parent volunteers. Please contact the Prom Committee at [tjprom2012 at gmail.com](mailto:tjprom2012@gmail.com) if you have questions and suggestions or if you can volunteer.

All Night Grad Party will be on the evening of June 16, 2012, after the Graduation ceremony. Seventy-two percent of the class has purchased tickets. If you have not reserved a ticket for your child, buy it this month. The ANGP Video Sub-Committee Chair is looking for materials (pictures/short videos) for the ANGP DVD. This sub-committee also needs help putting the Class of 2012 DVD together. If you have materials for the DVD, or if you can help with this video, please contact Bruce Summer,

ANGP Co-Chair, at [summersbw at verizon.net](mailto:summersbw@verizon.net).

~~ 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! Congratulations on completing the end of another semester. We know that your students are working hard but we can officially say we are on the downhill slope of Junior Year! The winter hosts lots of activities, both socially and academically. As this article goes to press, the class is hosting the RTC Soc Hop, our last sponsored dance of the year. During the last week in February and the first week in March (during their physics classes), the students will meet with their counselors for academic advising for senior year. At the end of March, students will receive their "Junior Packet" of college preparation information. More details on the college packet will follow in the weeks prior to distribution, but keep a look out for the packets: they will contain important information and deadlines.

Important volunteer opportunities continue to be available for parents to serve as 'shadows' for this year's **All Night Grad Party** committees. Because our class will be running this wonderful event for our seniors next year, it is important that we **ALL** learn how to do something to support the effort. Hundreds of volunteers are needed to make the June 16 ANGP a success (think Freshman Lock-In only

with older kids) and volunteering to follow and learn from a current senior parent is a great way to see what it is all about. Volunteers are particularly needed from the non-senior parent ranks for the early shifts the night of the party, as senior parents will still be at graduation. Please check out the **ANGP website**. You can complete a short, online form to select your volunteer activity.

On March 24, 2012, our class, together with the Freshman class, will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual TJ PiMiler. The 3.14 mile race is open to all and will again be held on the TJ school grounds. Registration is now OPEN at **[www.pimiler.com](http://www.pimiler.com)**. Sponsorship opportunities are also available on the website. Please take a moment to register to run or walk and to sponsor the fund raising activities for both classes. We will also need volunteers for packet pickup on March 23, and on race day for shifts between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Please contact us if you are interested.

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

TJ is going to Paris! This year's winter formal, "A Night in Paris," will be held in the main gym on Saturday, February 25 from 8:00 p.m.

to 11:00 p.m. Formal attire will be encouraged. The gym will be decorated to match the theme and hors d'oeuvres will be served. We are looking for volunteers for shoe collection, supervision, food committee, and decoration/clean up. To volunteer for this event, please e-mail Anita Rezazad at **[arezazad at orchidtech.net](mailto:arezazad@orchidtech.net)**.

Class of 2014's online auction will be held in early March. Sports tickets, dinners, vacation time shares, and other valuable items will be sold online. Please consider making any contribution to this fundraiser--especially if you have any special connections! We will be accepting donations until February 29.

Remind your kids to pick up their spirit packs if they ordered one! Or, if you still want to make a purchase, orders can be taken online: \$50 for sweatshirt and sweatpants, \$35 for sweatshirt, \$30 for sweatpants. Email **Christine Mayuga** at **[queenstine123 at gmail.com](mailto:queenstine123@gmail.com)** to either pick up your pack or make an order.

Please feel free to reach our student council with any questions at their email address: **[tjclassof2014 at gmail.com](mailto:tjclassof2014@gmail.com)**.

Thank you so much for supporting the Class of 2014!

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

## 2015 – Freshmen

### Pi Miler

Registration is open for the March 24, 2012, Thomas Jefferson Pi Miler at **[www.pimiler.com](http://www.pimiler.com)**. This 3.14 mile race is being organized by the Class of 2015, together with the Class of 2013. We hope to see many of you running the course and keeping those New Year's Resolutions. If running is not your speed, let us know and we will find other ways for you to participate and make this a successful fundraising event for our class.

### Freshman Lock-In

The Freshman class has selected a Disney theme for their Lock-In this year. Plans are underway for activities and events to keep the students busy and engaged all night long. Of course, making sure the event is possible will require almost 100 parent volunteers across multiple shifts from 6:00 p.m. Friday, April 27 – 8:00 a.m. Saturday, April 28. Please mark your calendars and let us know when you are able to be at school to support our kids.

Thanks for your help!

~~Jim Henris (**[jim at henrisff.com](http://jimathenrisff.com)**)  
~~Faye Henris (**[faye at henrisff.com](http://fayehenrisff.com)**)  
PTSA Class of 2015 Representatives

## News Round-up and Awards

### Eleven TJHSST Students are Semifinalists in the 2012 Intel Science Talent Search

The Intel Science Talent Search (Intel STS), the nation's most prestigious pre-college science competition, has selected 300 semifinalists to compete for \$1.25 million in awards. These students were chosen from among 1,839 entrants representing 497 high schools in 44 states, the District of Columbia, and three overseas schools. Each of the 300 students will receive a \$1,000 award and every school will receive an award of \$1,000 for each semifinalist named in the Intel STS 2012.

Congratulations to the TJHSST Intel STS semifinalists:

- **Nicolas Sebastian Arango** (Novel Ballistic Deflection Logic Enables Ultra-Fast Graphene Circuits)
- **Edward Joseph Danyliw** (Exploring Tradeoffs When Designing a Delay-and-Sum Beam-former with an FPGA)
- **Tushar Vinod Kamath** (Mathematical Modeling of Colorectal Cancer Incidence)
- **Darwin Hanchin Li** (A Novel Remote Sensing-Based Water Quality Monitoring System for the Chesapeake Bay Using Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper)
- **Veronica Charlotte Peterkin** (Ultraviolet Dosimetry to Modify Sun Protective Behavior)

- **Rithvik Raju Prasannappa** (Optogenetic Dissection of Somatosensory Neuron Function)
- **Pranava K. Raparla** (Chip-Scale Microscopy with Micro-Lens Arrays for Localized Super-Resolution)
- **Arjun Srinivasan** (Modeling Effects of Hemagglutinin Mutations on Influenza Virus Drug Resistance)
- **Mary Daotung Sun** (Multivariate Assessment of the Role of Alcohol Use to Address Gender Differences in Adolescent Depressive Disorder Risk)
- **Anjali Taneja** (The Significance of PAS Domain-containing Serine/Threonine-Protein Kinase (PASKIN) in Cellular Metabolism and Energy Homeostasis)
- **Yuqing Zhang**, (Early-Warning Signals for Population Collapses in Metapopulations)

### NCWIT Awards for Aspirations in Computing

**Helen Hastings** has received the 2012 NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing. The award, sponsored by Bank of America and the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT), recognizes young high school women for their computing-related achievements and interests as part of an effort to encourage more young women to choose careers in technology. A total of 35 award-winners were selected from high schools across the country and each award-winner will receive \$500, a laptop computer and a paid trip to attend the Bank of America Technology

Showcase and Awards Ceremony held in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Connie Scoggins** is a 2011 recipient of the VA-DC NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing. In honor of her achievement, the VA-DC NCWIT Affiliate is hosting an awards ceremony in March 2012.

Helen and Connie were recognized for their computing-related aspirations and for their demonstrated, outstanding aptitude and interest in information technology/computing; solid leadership ability; good academic history; and plans for post-secondary education.

NCWIT is the National Center for Women & Information Technology, a coalition of over 300 prominent corporations, academic institutions, government agencies, and nonprofits working to increase women's participation in IT. NCWIT's work spans K-12 and higher education through industry and academic careers. Find out more at [www.ncwit.org](http://www.ncwit.org).

### TJ Art Students' Work on Display in Richmond



The Friends of Virginia's Governor's Schools 2012 Capitol Art Show is currently on display at the General Assembly Building in Richmond through March 16. The FOVGS has promoted the show as a means of exhibiting

the artistic talents of our Governor's School students and to facilitate opportunities to enlighten and engage our legislators about the Virginia Governor's School Program.

This year's show was expanded to include over 80 student works from 10 Governor's Schools in a variety of media, including: charcoal, pencil, marker and pen and ink drawing; chalk pastel; acrylic, water color, and oil painting; digital photography; computer graphic and ink jet prints; mixed-media; fabric art; cut paper and wood; and scratchboard. Twelve TJ students have work in this year's show, which is open to the public during regular business hours. The digital photograph of **Charlie Maier** (2015), *Tunneling*, is featured on one of this year's exhibition posters. For more information, contact Ricki Guyant, TJ Parent (2014), Government Relations Committee Co-Chair and Curator, FOVGS CAS 2012, at [rmguyant@gmail.com](mailto:rmguyant@gmail.com).

### **TJ Student Attends Asian American Policy Forum**

At the invitation of New World Bilingual Institute of George Mason University, **Victor Shen** (2013) attended the Asian Pacific American Policy & Resource Forum on January 17 in Richmond, Virginia. The aim of the event was to appeal to lawmakers and the public to recognize the significance of discrediting the Chinese Exclusion Law and advocating for inclusiveness for minorities and immigrants. The Chinese Exclusion Law, passed in 1882, imposed a ten-year moratorium on Chinese labor immigration. The law was later extended and was in place until 1943. The

U.S. Senate passed Resolution 201 on October 7, 2011, expressing regret for the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Laws.



**Victor Shen** and CAPAVA members pose with Virginia Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling and former Governor Tim Kaine at the Forum.

## **TJHSST Partnership Fund**

### **TJ Needs You!**

#### **PLAY YOUR PART IN TJ'S SUCCESS**

**STORY:** Every year hundreds of TJ parents, past parents and alumni give \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 and more in voluntary contributions to TJ through the Partnership Fund. It's certainly nice to get a tax deduction and to be thanked publicly on our Donor List, but the primary reason our donors give is to help make TJ the best it can be. It's that easy to be a part of TJ's success. Please make your tax-deductible gift today by filling out your Year-End Donor Form or donating online at [www.tjpartnershipfund.org](http://www.tjpartnershipfund.org).

**JUNIOR PARENTS: GAME ON!** As soon as this month's research lab selection process is

complete, it'll be time to start preparations for the Third Annual Junior Lab Appeal. When you give to your student's chosen lab as part of the JLA, you make a tangible impact in that lab, and the Lab Directors are enormously appreciative of this effort. Last year's junior parents donated over \$60,000 to their students' chosen labs during the JLA. That money helped the labs purchase equipment that is being used by their students today. Now it's your turn to make a difference. Go (Parent) Class of 2013!

#### **FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE PARENTS: THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO AVOID THAT END-OF-FEBRUARY**

**PHONATHON CALL:** Phonathon volunteers will soon be gathering in the TJ cafeteria to call EVERY freshman and sophomore parent who has not contributed to the Partnership Fund this school year. Help shrink our Phonathon call list. Avoid the call and the follow-up email. Please write your check to the Year-End Appeal today. **Or donate online.**

#### **DON'T BE SHY: YOUR CONTACTS & CONNECTIONS CAN ENRICH OUR**

**SCHOOL.** Our principal's recent email asked you to take a moment to consider who you know who might be able to help TJ fulfill its ambitious vision for the future. As Dr. Glazer said, "If you work for a corporation that has an interest in furthering educational excellence, if you can connect the Partnership Fund with people who wish to support our vision, if you know of any person, corporation, foundation or institution that you believe could have a strong interest in partnering with TJ to advance the education of our students," we'd love to hear from you. So give that old friend a call or talk

to your boss, and then [fill out this brief survey](#), or simply send our PF Development Manager, Ellen Smith, an email at [eesmith@tjhsst.edu](mailto:eesmith@tjhsst.edu).

You can make a big difference just by connecting us to those you know. For more information about TJ's renovation and the Partnership Fund's efforts to support it, we suggest you or your contacts [visit the Partnership Fund website](#).



**Ned Danyliw**, TJ '12, and **Nick Arango**, TJ '12, two of TJ's eleven Intel Semifinalists for 2012, pose in their senior research lab, Microelectronics, with the circuit board Ned designed for his project. (Nick's project has no hardware component, so he has no props to show you.) The Partnership Fund congratulates all eleven Semifinalists for their outstanding work!

**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 4

The November Tech cetera provided information on the student leadership for 2011-2012 for Chess, Forensic speech, Future Problem Solvers, Lincoln-Douglas debate, Public Forum debate, Quizbowl, and the Varsity Math Team.

The December Tech cetera supplemented this list with information on Certamen, Model United Nations (MUN), NASA Student Launch Initiative (SLI), Rubik's Cube, and Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC).

In January, we added Chemistry and Policy Debate. This month, we're sharing information on Botball and Japan Bowl. We welcome news and leadership information from all of TJ's academic teams!

**Botball Co-presidents:** Helen Lai and Megan Clark

**Japan Bowl team captains:** Danbi Kim (Level 2), Ian Lin (Level 3), and Elizabeth Nguyen (Level 4).

*Please join the TJ Academic Boosters to support our terrific teams. Visit the [Academic Boosters website](#) 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.

### NEWS ABOUT TJ ACADEMIC TEAMS

**Certamen:** On January 7, TJ Latin students kicked off the New Year by competing in the annual Flint Hill School Certamen in Oakton, VA. With a Level 1 team (**Sylvia Greer, Andrew Choi**); a Level 1 Advanced (1A) team (**Bobbie Sheng, Peter Kim, Sandy Cho**); two Level 2 teams (**June Ge, Adam Goldstein, Jeff Horowitz, Owen Hoffman, John Wilkes** (A Team); **Marisa Duong, Anshula Gandhi, Ben Andre, Nolan Kataoka** (B Team)); two Level 3 teams (**Hannah Pho, Sienna Lotenberg, Anthony Carrington, Lauren Mostrom** (A Team); **Tommy Lunn, Katie Hough, Emma Hastings, Anwar Omeish, Daphne Fong** (B Team)); and two Upper teams (**Ricky Short, Philip Meyers, Alana Whitman, Rachel Goldstein** (A Team); **Molly Hemenway, Andrew Coffee, Hyae-In Seo, Morgan Cheatham** (B Team)), students came, saw, and conquered at this trivia competition devoted to the ancient world.

After three preliminary rounds of twenty questions, TJ advanced into the finals on Levels 1 through Upper. Students took home a second-place trophy on the Upper level, and first-place trophies in Level 1A, Level 2, and Level 3. Additionally, TJ's Level 2 and Level 3 B-teams were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place because of their cumulative scores through preliminaries, but were not allowed to compete in finals against another TJ team due to Virginia

Certamen rules. Students now continue to work hard in preparation for future Certamina!

**Forensics:** Congratulations to our TJ Forensics Team members who competed at the George Mason Patriot Games Classic Invitational: **Anand Prassana**, Extemporaneous Speaking; **Adam Friedman**, Dramatic Interpretation; **Lucas Lin**, Original Oratory; **Shivani Dimri**, Poetry; and **Sanjoli Agarwal**, Prose & Poetry.

On December 14, the TJ Forensics Team did a terrific job at the NoVAFL Speech and Debate competition held at Hayfield Secondary School, with **Leif Bakke** taking 1st in Original Oratory and 1<sup>st</sup> in Impromptu Speaking; Lucas Lin placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in Original Oratory and 4<sup>th</sup> in Impromptu Speaking; and **Hillary Liu** placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in Poetry and 5<sup>th</sup> in Prose.

On December 17 our TJ team competed at the WACFL3 competition at Robinson Secondary School, with more than 1,000 students from the metro area. Congratulations to Leif Bakke who placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Impromptu Speaking, and to our other WACFL competitors, **Romita Mandal**, Extemp; **Anand Prassana**, Extemp; **Nita Takanti** and **Nidhi Gandhi**, Duo Interp; **Katharine Earl** and **Lucia Lee**, Duo Interp; **Adam Friedman**, Dramatic Performance; and **Leif Bakke**, Original Oratory.

On January 10, the National Forensic League announced that Leif Bakke ('12) has received a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Student Service Citation from the league in recognition of outstanding service to speech and debate education. Under this new program, which began in fall 2011, National Forensic League students receive a Student Service Citation for every 100 service points

earned through service activities, such as community speaking or outreach activities. A single act of service usually garners between two and five service points.

**Japan Bowl:** Japan Bowl team members have been preparing all year for the National Japan Bowl competition, which will take place in April. Some team members began preparing for the competition even before school started!

Named to the Level 2 Team are: **Elizabeth Chang**, **Emily Zhou** and **Danbi Kim** (Captain). The Level 3 Team is: **Ian Lin** (Captain), **Justin Lee** and **Colton Sears**. The Level 4 Team is: **Lily Gu**, **Dave Wyman** and **Elizabeth Nguyen** (Captain).

**Lincoln-Douglas Debate:** At the WACFL 4 tournament in early January, Lincoln-Douglas brought 40 competitors -- its largest turnout ever!

**Robert Wang** took first place in JV Lincoln-Douglas, and qualified for the Metro Finals in March. Lincoln-Douglas competitors **Andrew Haymaker** and **Sraavya Poonuganti** also qualified for Metro Finals. The Metro Finals competition is the gateway to the national tournament in May.

**Model UN:** Congratulations to the Model United Nations team on another outstanding showing at the recent Chantilly Model United Nations conference.

Note on awards: The Secretary General's Award is the highest award a school may earn. The top award for a delegation is best

delegation/gavel, followed by outstanding, honorable, and verbal awards.

### **School Award**

Secretary-General's Award for Best Large High School

### **Individual Awards**

#### Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

Outstanding - **Wills Johnston** and **Nishant Garg** (United States of America)

Verbal - **Nikhil Gopalan** and **James Day** (Saudi Arabia)

Verbal - **Kush Kakkad** and **Prajeeth Koyada** (United Kingdom)

#### Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)

Best Delegation/Gavel - **Parth Chopra** and **Jason Huang** (Australia)

Outstanding - **Nathaniel Taylor** and **Vikram Sardana** (Saudi Arabia)

#### Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian (SOCHUM)

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

Verbal - **Zach Moser** and **Andrew Kim** (United Kingdom)

Verbal - **Sam Cadd** and **Stephannie Chen** (Finland)

#### World Health Organization (WHO)

Best Delegation/Gavel - **Jay Hebert** and **Yena Seo** (United Kingdom)

Verbal - **Arusha Reghu** and **Iman Abdikarim** (United States of America)

Verbal - **Brittany Peck** and **Sharon Zhou**  
(Saudi Arabia)

United Nations Environmental Program  
(UNEP)

Outstanding - **Lian Bloch** and **Saritha  
Attanagoda** (Italy)

Honorable - **Allen Shi** and **Sarah  
Rachal** (United Kingdom)

Verbal - **Rahul Ramraj** and **Jay  
Devanathan** (Saudi Arabi)

Organization of American States (OAS)

Outstanding - **Carson Hotard** (Mexico)

Congress of Vienna

Best Delegation/Gavel - **Brendan Kim**  
(Russia)

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Best Delegation/Gavel - **Zach Hosseinipour**  
(Germany)

United States National Security Council  
(USNSC)

Best Delegation/Gavel - **Varun Kumar**  
(Secretary of the Treasury)

African Union

Honorable - **Garrett Shapiro** (Zimbabwe)

European Commission

Outstanding - **Rachel Merriman-  
Goldring** (Germany)

G20

Honorable - **Chris Groskaufmanis**  
and **Michelle Wang** (United States of  
America)

Marvel Comics

Outstanding - **Daniel Shanker** (Captain  
America)

**Quizbowl:** At the GSAC XIX tournament held on December 3, a team consisting of **James Bradbury, Raynor Kuang, Jonathan Leidenheimer** and **Sarah Eltinge** placed 3rd out of 27 teams. On December 10, at the VCU Winter tournament, TJ A again placed 3rd, this time out of 22 teams, with a team consisting of James Bradbury, Raynor Kuang and **Hope Flaxman**. TJ B, consisting of **Nadège Aoki, Varun Kumar** and **Justin Yum** placed 7th. On January 21, TJ will host its own tournament, TJIAT.

TJ also competed at the Harvard Fall Tournament, a high-level high school tournament held on the Harvard campus on November 12, and came in fourth out of 34 teams. TJ qualified for PACE National Scholastic Championships from that tournament with a team of Sarah Eltinge, James Bradbury, Raynor Kuang and Jonathan Leidenheimer. The PACE National Scholastics Championship will be held in June in St Louis, Missouri.

**Academic Boosters sends congratulations to all of our academic teams on your outstanding performances during the fall semester. We wish you the best of luck with your spring events!!**

**Colonial Athletic Boosters (CAB)**

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

**\*Winter CAB Membership Contest Update\***

The Winter CAB Membership contest is in full swing! The Varsity Boys Basketball team only needs one more member and they will win. There are several teams in the race for second place. *Please encourage all of your teammates to make sure their families join the Boosters.* Remember – the winning team (first team to 90%) will be awarded \$500 for the coach to use as needed. Second place will be awarded \$200.

*One important change in our rules: Any team with more than 50 members only needs to achieve 50% participation.*

Team standings as of 1/18/12:

Varsity Boys Basketball – 86%

Varsity Girls Basketball – 64%

Dance Team – 56%

Freshman Boys Basketball – 46%

Swim and Dive – 41%

JV Girls Basketball – 33%

Indoor Track – 32%

Wrestling – 31%

Freshman Girls Basketball – 23%

JV Boys Basketball – 23%

Gymnastics – 13%

JV Wrestling – 0

## \*Winter Sports Banquet and Awards\*

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Details posted at [www.colonialathletics.org](http://www.colonialathletics.org)  
*We'll see you there!*

### SPORTS PHYSICALS: SAVE THE DATE!!

Get out your planners and book your appointment now for **Wednesday, May 23**, to get your student's annual sports physical at TJ. Medical professionals will perform the comprehensive physicals. The screening will check height, weight, body fat, vision, posture, vital signs, and upper and lower body assessments. Everyone will see the medical professional for clearance. Every athlete needs a new physical **EVERY SCHOOL YEAR**, so save a trip to the doctor's office and come out and support TJ Athletics. This is a great way to ensure that the physical is completed before summer out-of-season practices start. EVERYONE will need a new physical in order to participate after July 1. If you have any questions, send an email to [heather.murphy at fcps.edu](mailto:heather.murphy@fcps.edu).

**Volunteers needed for physicals!** We need medical and non-medical parents to help make the sports physicals a successful event! If you are a TJ parent and a physician (MD or DO), physician's assistant (PA), physical therapist (PT) or nurse practitioner (NP), please consider helping out with physicals on May 23. We also need non-medical parents to help with working a station or check-in/out desk. Your expertise and a few hours of your time will greatly benefit our TJ athletes! *Free advertising for medical professionals that help!* If you are willing to volunteer, please email Heather Murphy at [heather.murphy at fcps.edu](mailto:heather.murphy@fcps.edu).

TJHSST PTSA Tech cetera

*And now for the team news...*

**Varsity Boys Basketball:** TJ's Boys Varsity Basketball team is finishing a strong first half of the season. This past winter break they played in the Joe Cascio Holiday Classic Tournament and beat two teams decisively in order to vie for the championship game, where they acquitted themselves impressively despite losing. It was an exciting tournament. The team has played hard since the break, losing three games, but winning two. They beat Madison in a nail-biting home game. The TJ crowd was decidedly pumped and supportive as the team relentlessly worked the floor. Senior **Richard Kuzma**, scored 35 points, breaking a school record.

The next win was against Marshall High, where the boys turned the game around after a tepid first half. **Kuzma, Burke Deutsch, Brian Havens, Shriram Sundararaman, Mig Gebril, Marcus Prater, David Rice** and **Sammy Singh** all contributed to the winning score. **Marcus Prater** finished the game in dramatic fashion, stealing the ball, taking it full court and laying it in at the buzzer! Richard Kuzma scored 37 points, setting yet another school record. With seven games left in the season, the Colonials continue to work hard. They need your support as they fine-tune their machine in preparation for the playoffs - where many observers are expecting them to go deep. If you haven't been to a game yet, we encourage you to come. Not only is the basketball game fun, but the Monticello Maniacs are worth the price of admission.

**JV Boys Basketball:** The boys Junior Varsity Basketball team lost three tough games after the holidays in January, despite a strong lineup and working hard. However, the tide seems to have changed with the team winning the last two games against Stone Bridge and Marshall High Schools. The game at Stone Bridge was a high scoring one at 55-40. The defense was strong and the baskets kept coming in. The home game against Marshall High was intense, with the score very close all the way into the fourth quarter. The last few minutes of the game were especially crucial, with technical calls, and successful free throws (**Peter Tan** and **Kia Eskandarian** bagging a few points each). With just 4 seconds remaining, the tie-breaking, and winning, 2 points were scored by **Keshav Rao** on the free-throw line. The team looks forward to playing Marshall again in February. The boys played Langley High for the second time this season on January 20. TJ beat Langley 46-34 in early December. We hope to report on another exciting game in the next issue.



**Peter Tan** aims for the basket; The winning free throw by **Keshav Rao**.

**Boys Freshman Basketball:** After two tough games against Chantilly and Fairfax, the team faced the Seahawks at South Lakes. The Seahawks dominated the first three quarters, but our freshman team fought valiantly in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, using a tough press to narrow the margin, losing by 11 points. They outscored the Seahawks 21-8 in the last quarter. We hope to see this fighting spirit in our boys at every game.

In the home game against the formidable Madison Warhawks, our team played their best, with everyone stepping up to match the Warhawks in all categories – layups, blocks, 3 pointers etc. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the Colonials evened the score at 33, much to the excitement of the home crowd. Though we lost by 8 points, it did not dampen the spirits of the home crowd, which was treated to an exciting performance by the Colonials.

In another home game against the McLean Highlanders, the Colonials picked up an early lead, and kept it to earn their first win of the season. Even with the imposing foul trouble, our boys did not lose mental toughness, staying up throughout the course of the game, giving the Highlanders and their coach a tough time.

In the game against the Stone Bridge Bulldogs, though our boys played aggressively to open up an initial lead, the Bulldogs took over the lead in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. The tide continued to favor the Bulldogs, who won by 6 points.

**Girls Varsity Basketball:** Halfway through the season the Lady Colonials are looking forward to seeing each of the Liberty District

teams again to avenge some tough losses this young team (with no Senior players) has sustained. TJ beat Falls Church and Stuart at the beginning of the season, tying the number of wins from last season. They played two of their best games against Fairfax and Madison, coming up a little short in each of them.

The Colonials have been led all season by Junior **Minh Bui**, recording 6 double-doubles in 15 games thus far. Bui has totalled 148 points this season and 139 rebounds while shooting over 75% from the free throw line. Junior Captain **Morgan Cheatham** has provided great leadership on and off the court, scoring 116 points this season, with some exciting three-point shooting, despite missing several games due to a high ankle sprain. **Rebecca Clark-Callender** has made an immediate impact as a freshman, leading the team in assists with 25. The team is anticipating her return from a concussion. Sophomore **Care Shoabi** has played solidly all season, adding 77 points and helping Bui out under the basket, pulling down 58 rebounds. Sophomore **Mary Forburger** missed the first part of the season with a preseason concussion, but has helped lead the team at the point guard position in Cheatham and Clark-Callender's absence. Junior Captain **Rena Mazur** and junior **Sam Hoegle** have both contributed aggressive, tough defense in games while sophomores **Hunter Clark** and **Laura Manno** have also been impact players for the Colonials. The team is rounded out by **Ellen Mulé**, **Julia Dunbar**, **Erika Rashka** and **Linda Allworth**, each of whom is contributing when they're on the court and helping build this team.



Freshman  
**Rebecca  
Clark-  
Callendar** in  
action

**Girls JV Basketball:** The TJ Lady Colonials JV basketball team has continued to improve over the course of the season. The team continues to rely on the offense led by **Tessa Muss**, who scored 16 points against the Marshall Statesmen on January 17. **Quinnlan Sweeney** consistently contributes to the offense as she has posted points in every game and regularly has impressive statistics in the assists column. The offense has also been supported by **Katie Cox** and **Somya Shankar's** outside shooting capability. **Isabelle Walton** continues to be a leader as a point guard and has supported the team with her strong ability to distribute the ball. Some of the Lady Colonials' most exciting plays have occurred as **Michelle Namkung** has driven to the basket and scored crucial points.

The Lady Colonials defense has worked hard to improve their rebounding and convert these turnovers into points. **Maria Kim** constantly grabs rebounds on both sides of the court. **Carolyn Ours** is a strong member of the

Colonials defense and is skilled at breaking down her opponents' set plays. **Irene Hwang** has demonstrated a dedication to stealing the ball and scoring in the transition.

The team has missed the contributions of **Maddy Naide, Rachel Iwicki** and **Anna Seo**, who are sidelined by injuries.

**Gymnastics:** The team placed 3rd of 7 teams in the last home meet of the season and Senior Night on January 10. Jefferson defeated West Potomac, Madison, Fairfax, and Edison. Highlights included junior **Jasmine Denizard** finishing 1st all-around with a 35.8, 1<sup>st</sup> on vault and bars, 4<sup>th</sup> on beam, and 2<sup>nd</sup> on floor; and fellow junior **Caroline Kerr** finishing 5th in the all-around and 4th on bars. Competing in the all-around was senior **Kristen Skowronski**. Kristen had a strong performance on her Senior Night, finishing 13<sup>th</sup> all-around. Competing in the all-around was junior **Jennifer Wang**, on beam and floor was junior **Zophie Quan**, and on beam and floor was freshman **Tahia Emran**. Freshman **Caroline Culberson** had a great showing competing on floor for the first time and junior **Lizzy Miranda** competed for the first time this season on vault, as well. The team also competed on January 12 at South Lakes. The team placed 4th out of six teams, led by junior **Caroline Kerr** in 3rd all around and junior **Jasmine Denizard** in 4th all around. Coaches this year are **Pete Novgrod, Christina Jones, Brad Wasserman** and **Melanie Hunt**.



The gymnastics team with **Dr. Glazer** on Senior Night. From left to right: **Kristen Skowronski, Lizzy Miranda, Caroline Kerr, Dr. Glazer, Tahia Emran, Caroline Culberson, Zophie Quan, Jennifer Wang**. Not pictured: **Jasmine Denizard**.



Junior **Jasmine Denizard** performing a wolf jump on balance beam during her 1<sup>st</sup> place all-around finish on Senior Night.

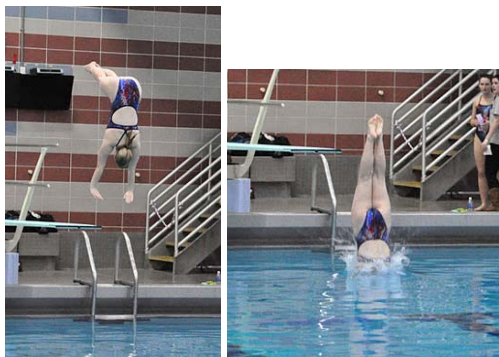
**Indoor Track:** Athletes on TJ's Indoor Track Team have competed in several meets this season, and are currently concentrating on qualifying for District, Regional and State competitions. Some performers are top-ranked in the region so far, including both the Girls and Boys Distance Medley Relay teams (1200 meters, 400 meters, 800 meters, 1600 meters). The Girls' team of **Grace Zeng, CheyAnne Rivera, Sarah Nielsen** and **Katherine**

**Sheridan** won their first race of the season (the Montgomery Invite in early January) with an overall time of 12:55.64.

The Boys' team of **Michael Wattendorf, Raeford Penny, Jacob Zucker** and **Andrew O'Shea** came in fourth at that meet with a time of 11:09.73. **Ed Cai** is tops in the region so far for 55 meter hurdles, with a time of 7.77 achieved at the F.I.T. invitational in December. TJ's distance runners on both teams also are doing well in individual competitions, with **Katherine Sheridan, Sarah Nielsen** and **Grace Zeng** often leading, but closely followed by **Taylor Reffet, Christine Mayuga** and **Katrina Junta**. **Rekha Schnepf** is also coming on strong as she continues to recover from injuries sustained in the fall. CheyAnne Rivera is doing well in the 300 meter and 500 meter, as well as long jump and triple jump. For the boys, along with Ed Cai's awesome hurdling performances, the distance and middle-distance runners consistently perform well, including **Chris Rom, Michael Wattendorf, Andrew O'Shea, Raeford Penny, Jacob Zucker, Dan Matson** and **Chris Blagg**.

**Swim and Dive:** TJSD started the year out strong. They won both meets so far in January. In the competition against South Lakes on January 6, the TJ boys won 205-104 and the TJ girls won 186-128. **Stephen Seliskar, Andrew Seliskar, Katie Bennett** and **Nathan Hughes** were all double winners at the South Lakes meet. On January 13, the boys' team defeated Fairfax 211-103 and the TJ girls bested the Fairfax girls 190-125. Double winners against Fairfax were Stephen Seliskar, Andrew Seliskar and Katie Bennett. That leaves both

the boys and the girls teams with season records of 5 wins and 1 loss. On January 20, TJSD faced Langley, another very strong team, and we will report on that contest in the next issue.



**Emily Saitta** executes a dive.

District, regional and state competitions start after the January 20 meet. TJ will be well represented in each of those competitions, with swimmers and divers who have already qualified for regional and state competition, as well as others who will qualify in the upcoming meets.



**Grace Liu, Sophie Bennett, Taylor Quinn, Aedan Collins**



Relay team: **Stephen Seliskar, Reese Frerichs, Andrew Seliskar, Luke Thorsell**

**Varsity Wrestling:** The team entered the winter break with a great effort at the Warhawk Duals at Madison HS on December 22-23. Our varsity grapplers defeated two Liberty District teams, Madison and McLean, along with several non district teams, finishing 6-3. Very impressive!

The varsity team traveled to Warwick, PA on January 7 to compete in a tournament in Coach Behling's hometown. Our nine wrestlers wrestled against five very tough PA teams. Co-

captains **Peter Reischer** (220) and **Patrick O'Connor** (195) won all five of their matches. **Andy Loh** (132) hung tough and finished the tournament with a pin in the first period. Other wrestlers with pins: **Reece Anderson** (152), **Taylor Yohe** (120), **Peter Sulucz** (160), **Paul Bentz** (182), and **Giovani Basurto** (285).

In January, the team had several dual matches. Our first home match was against Fairfax and Marshall. The team lost both matches, but had several notable individual matches: Sulucz had a 1<sup>st</sup> period pin, Yohe won 8-6 at the final buzzer, O'Connor won both matches, and R. Anderson stepped up to fill the varsity 152 slot and pin his Fairfax opponent. The team headed to Langley on January 14 to compete against Langley, South Lakes and Washington Lee. The wrestlers all contributed to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Liberty District win this season over South Lakes in a nerve wracking tie breaker. The most notable matches were: **Charlie Maier** (106), notching a pin over Langley, **Ben Hatanpää** (170), saw his first varsity start, Bentz with 2 pins, O'Connor with 3 pins, and **Paul Wolfteich** (145), with a pin versus Washington Lee. Wolfteich also denied his South Lakes opponent a major decision, leaving the dual meet in a tie, which TJ won. Impressive effort!

We celebrated senior night with on January 18 in a dual match with a win against Falls Church and a loss to Edison. Congratulations to Peter Reischer, **Victor Weiss**, **Skyler Anderson**, Paul Wolfteich, Peter Sulucz, Reece Anderson, and co-Captain, **Alex Zaita**, who is recovering from surgery following a season-ending knee injury. **Daniel Min** (182), had his first varsity start with a pin against Falls Church.

The team has two weeks left of the season to polish their skills before the Liberty District Championships on February 3-4 at Langley HS, followed by the Northern Regional Championship on February 10-11 at Hayfield, and finally States on February 17-18 at Robinson Secondary. Come out and catch your TJ grapplers in action!!

**JV Wrestling:** Our small JV team has had several JV Jamborees in January to practice and hone their skills. These Jamborees are tournament style events with 5-6 other high schools. Many JV wrestlers also wrestle with the Varsity squad at their dual meets and tournaments. Freshmen **Vincent Billet** and **Charlie Maier**, and sophomore **Arvind Gupta**, frequently contribute at the varsity events. Juniors **Ben Hatanpää** and **Daniel Min** had their first varsity starts in duals meets during January.

JV District Championships will be on Jan 24 at Madison HS. Come out and watch our wrestlers; you'll be impressed!

## ***Band Boosters***

Congratulations to all the students who made the All-District band! TJ has the largest number of students from any school. Visit [tjbands.org](http://tjbands.org) to see who's playing what instrument in the concert on February 4.

On February 11, 2012, TJ is hosting a huge indoor drumline and color guard competition in Gym 1. Units are coming from all over

Northern Virginia and beyond. Come see your classmates and base school friends perform. For more information, please visit [tjbands.org](http://tjbands.org).

Our next citrus delivery arrives on February 25. Orders must be placed by February 18. You can find more information at [tjbands.org](http://tjbands.org).

## ***Crew Boosters***

The spring rowing season is just around the corner – we'll be on the water in less than three weeks! Thanks to all of the parents who attended the TJ Crew Information Night on February 1. Please remember that the full bus payment is due by February 13 and that all other payments are due by February 21. In addition, each student and their parent or guardian must complete the **FCPS-required online concussion training** by February 20.

TJ Crew will hold their annual fundraiser, the Million Meter Ergathon, on Friday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m. in the TJ Cafeteria. It's not too late to sponsor a rower - we appreciate any and all donations! Please stop by the Cafeteria on the 10<sup>th</sup> to see what our Ergathon is all about and to cheer on the team!

Parent volunteers are needed to help with the mandatory swim test at the Audrey Moore Recreation Center for Freshman and Novice rowers on February 17 from 4-6 p.m. Please contact Terry Pollock ([pollockt@verizon.net](mailto:pollockt@verizon.net)) if you are able to volunteer. All rowers, including all Freshman and Novice rowers, should mark their calendars for the Boathouse

Work Day at Sandy Run on Saturday, February 11 from 2-4 p.m.

For further information, please visit the **TJ Crew website**. Parents should email any questions to President Dave Nuckols ([tjcrewpresident@gmail.com](mailto:tjcrewpresident@gmail.com)) or Coach Bill Randall ([cjsb@verizon.net](mailto:cjsb@verizon.net)). Students should email their questions to the team captains at TJ Men's Captains ([tjmenscaptains@gmail.com](mailto:tjmenscaptains@gmail.com)) and TJ Women's Captains ([tjwomenscaptains@gmail.com](mailto:tjwomenscaptains@gmail.com)).

## ***Theatre Boosters***

On January 21, **Zach Moser** and **Sib Shewit** performed *I Dream Before I take the Stand* at the VHSL Competition at Marshall High School. The play was directed by **Vincent Pollet**.

Come see the Annual Knight of One Axe on February 3 and 4 at 7:00 p.m. Five one act plays will be presented: *Airplan (Without the "E" for Trademark Reasons)*, written and directed by student **Rebecca Edelstein** with co-director, **Christine Jacobs**; *High Definition: A Play About Television*, written and directed by student **Rishi Malhotra** with co-director, **Kate Sanders**; *The Trysting Place*, directed by **Ally Walsh**; *Red Carnations*, directed by **Aaron Bland**; and *Untitled #2*, directed by **Nicholas Kousen**. It promises to be an entertaining evening! Tickets will be on sale at the door (\$10).

Auditions for the Spring Show (*Stage Door*) will be held February 21 and 22 (Callbacks on

February 23). Questions should be directed to **Mr. Pollet** ([vppollet at fcps.edu](mailto:vppollet@fcps.edu)).

Shakespeare! is scheduled for March 3. TJ students will run workshops for Fairfax County elementary students on that day. Further information is on the [Shakespeare website](#).

Shakespeare Troupe will perform *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Folger Theater in March. TJ students will be able to see a performance of this at TJ on March 9 (8th Period). Student directors are **Adam Friedman** and **Sib Shewit**.

Parental support is always welcomed by Theatre Boosters. Donations can even be made In Honor Of a student - we will notify students of the donation.

To donate or volunteer, please contact us at [tj.theatreboosters at gmail.com](mailto:tj.theatreboosters@gmail.com).

## Announcements and Information

### 2012 AP exams for non-enrolled students

If you are not enrolled in an AP course but would like to take the exam:

(1) Submit a check (name, ID#, exam on memo line) payable to TJHSST for \$100.00 per exam to **Mr. Wong**, office A8, or **Ms. Moore**, Student Services, before March 14.

(2) Refund process: you must email me your request before April 13. Your refund check will be given during the summer (minus \$13 unused exam fee).

(3) If you have the following exam conflicts:

**Spanish Language/Computer Science**  
**German/US History**  
**Music Theory/Biology**

You will take the BOLD exam at its regular time and the other exam during the late testing period.

(4) If you want to take an exam that conflicts with another exam, there is a \$40 (no cash) additional late fee to be paid by March 14. You

will take the requested exam during the late period.

If you have further questions, please see me in office A8, or email [adam.wong at fcps.edu](mailto:adam.wong@fcps.edu).

For additional information, go to:

<http://professionals.collegeb.com/testing/ap/about/dates>.

### TJeCycling Collection Program

The TJeCycling Program is up and running. 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! (See our flyer at the end of the newsletter.)

## Noteworthy Dates

February 2012	
1	Crew Family Information Night, 6pm in Cafeteria
2	<b>PTSA Meeting, 7:00pm in Library</b>
3	Drama One Acts, 7pm in Auditorium
4	Academic Boosters Phonathon, 9am
4	Drama One Acts, 7pm in Auditorium
7	Parents for Safe Teen Driving, 6:30pm in Auditorium
8	Science Fair
8	Crew Family Information Night (snow date), 7pm in Cafeteria
8	Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library
8	Crew Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Room 106
8	Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
10	Crew Ergathon, 4pm in Cafeteria
10	Talent Show, 7pm
11	Winter Showcase, 8am in Auditorium and gyms
16	Curriculum Night for 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> grade parents, 5pm
17	International Night, 7pm in Auditorium
18	International Night, 7pm in Auditorium
20	<b>President's Day, No School</b>
20	Practices/Tryouts begin for Spring Sports
22	Orchestra Booster's Meeting, 7:30pm in Principal's Conference Room
25	Class of 2014 Winter Formal, 8pm in Gym 1
28	Band Concert, 7pm in Auditorium
28	Academic Booster's Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center

March 2012	
1	Winter Sports Banquet and Awards, 6pm
2	I-Nite Snow Date, 7pm in Auditorium
3	I-Nite Snow Date, 7pm in Auditorium
5	Meet the Spring Coaches Night, 7pm
6	Parents for Safe Teen Driving, 6:30pm in Lecture Hall
8	<b>PTSA Meeting, 7:30pm in Library</b>
10	Spring Team Pictures
13	Orchestra Concert, 7pm in Auditorium
14	Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Library
14	Crew Boosters Meeting, 7pm in Room 106
14	Diversity Committee Meeting, 7pm in Career Center
16	Buleria Dance, 7:30pm in Cafeteria
19	Theatre Boosters Meeting, 6:30pm in Library
22	Choir Musical, 7pm in Auditorium
23	Choir Musical, 7pm in Auditorium
24	TJ PiMiler, 9am
24	Choir Musical, 7pm in Auditorium
27	Academic Booster's Meeting, 7:30pm in Career Center

# TJeCycle



**Recycle broken, unwanted, or  
obsolete electronics through  
TJeCycle**

Don't let harmful materials from computers, TVs, cell phones,  
etc. leak into the environment by letting your broken  
electronics go to landfills!

Bring electronics to the Athletic Office, marked "TJeCycle"

Questions? Contact Michael Cooper at [TJeCycle@gmail.com](mailto:TJeCycle@gmail.com)