



TROJAN TIMES

1st Quarter
2007

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Learning from Leadership

BY BARBARA PARKINS, SUPERINTENDENT

The Wallace Foundation, an organization dedicated to expanding learning and enhancing student achievement, recently commissioned a series of reports through their Learning from Leadership Project. In essence, the reports affirm that leadership not only matters: it is second only to teaching among school-related factors in its impact on student learning. In addition, the impact of leadership tends to be greatest in schools where the learning needs of students are most acute.

Leadership has often been defined as the ability to influence, motivate and enable others to contribute toward the effectiveness and success of an organization. At Greater Johnstown School District, leadership of this nature begins with our board of directors and continues through every level of our administration and staff.

Richard Unger, Board President, provides strategic leadership with the board of directors, Vice President John Berzinsky, Raymond Arcurio, Vincent Arcurio, Ed Mikesic,

Kimberly Murray, Eugene Pentz, Kevin Price, and Doris Todorich. In addition, each board member serves as a community leader on a regular basis and dedicates huge amounts of their time to helping our district. The board's leadership provides the roadmap to educate and nurture our students today and into the future.

Our talented administrative team has the ability to motivate and influence students and staff and makes a difference every day. Our dedicated teachers and staff serve as leaders to our students. They lead by example and their efforts shape the minds and hearts of tomorrow's leaders.

You, the parents, friends, and community within the Greater Johnstown School District, are all making a difference and your own leadership will leave a lasting impact. I feel blessed to be a part of the Greater Johnstown School District Team. I challenge you all to continue and grow your leadership efforts because as the Wallace Report states, leadership is essential to learning.

East Side Stories

Hair-raising Experience:

The Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh brought a piece of the museum to Johnstown. Carnegie's Traveling Science Center visited East Side Elementary on Jan. 31 and presented "It's Electric," a demonstration that taught students about electricity. The program revealed how electricity is produced. East Side pupils even had an opportunity to touch the "electric ball" that simultaneously made their hair stand up in the air.

Math-A-Thon for a Good Cause:

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and East Side Elementary teamed up during a successful Math-A-Thon, an educationally based fundraising program. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 raised \$800 after obtaining sponsors for the number of math problems completed in special workbooks. Six Flags Theme Parks sponsors the national program. Bradley Sowerbrower and Codi Smith were recognized as top fundraisers. "We are very proud of our students for working so hard on the Math-A-Thon," said Ms. Patti Assia, East Side's volunteer coordinator. "With their help, St. Jude Hospital will be able to create new treatments that may one day lead to a cure for

many forms of cancer that will benefit the children of our state, our country and around the world. I also want to extend our thanks to the Johnstown community for supporting our students." Students participating in the program learned about the importance of math problems as well as the significance of helping children who are less fortunate.

Shooting for the Stars: The Appalachia Intermediate Unit-8's traveling planetarium planned on visiting East Side on Feb. 13 as part of PTA Family Science Night. Due to the heavy snow, the event has been rescheduled for March 21. Students will learn about the solar system, planets and stars. Student-teachers will be present to supervise hands-on experiments. East Side students will also have their science projects on display.

Photo Courtesy of Tracy Fleck



Carnegie's Traveling Science center visited students at East Side Elementary for a demonstration teaching students about electricity.

Parents Can Read Too: More than 250 East Side parents and family members have participated in the popular Raising Readers Workshops in grades K-4 through 5. Each workshop addresses a specific skill or component of the daily reading instruction. Parents then experience the modeling of the lesson with their child in the classroom setting.

100 and Counting: East Side math students celebrated the 100th day of school on Feb. 12 as part of the curriculum. Calendar activities that promote patterns, counting and math concepts are incorporated into classes.

Yearbook Memories: The 2006-07 Yearbooks will be delivered by the end of the school year. Orders may be placed through the PTA or individual teachers. The books cost \$13.

West Side Stories

Freedom Train: Fourth and fifth grade students at both East Side and West Side attended a production of "Freedom Train: The Story of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad" on Feb. 2 at West Side. This live drama presented by TheatreWorks came to our district through the efforts of the Johnstown Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) who wrote a grant to underwrite the cost of the production. The Johnstown Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) paid for the cost of the buses to bring East Side students to the West Side gym for the hour-long program.

West Side Universe: A new "universe" has been created at West Side. This "universe" will recognize and encourage student achievement. There are two constellations in the West side universe -- Pride for Reading, and Tradition for Math. Students in grades 3 through 5 who have scored proficient on the November or January assessments have a star hanging in the breezeway by the gym/cafeteria lobby. Students who made improvement from the November to the January assessments are "rising stars," with their stars displayed on the windows in the breezeway. Based on the January assessment results, West Side has 178 stars shining in the Pride constellation, and 193 stars gleaming in the Tradition constellation.

Heart Warming Exercise: West Side students have established a proud tradition of participating in the American Heart Association events held each February. This year, students in grades K through 5 participated in Jump Rope for Heart or Hoops for Heart from Feb. 7-14. Students solicit contributions for the American Heart Association. By jumping rope or

shooting hoops, West Siders have an opportunity to earn prizes or equipment certificates for the West Side physical education program. West Side has had outstanding success in past years while participating in the fundraisers. In the 2003-04 calendar year, donations exceeded a West Side-best \$13,000. Last year West Siders raised \$7,325 for the American Heart Association.

Photo Courtesy of Kathy Legat



Shawn Sherer, a third grade student in Mrs. Lantz's class, gazes at part of the 'West Side Universe'.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MILESTONES

Photos Courtesy of Frank Frontino



The "Math-letes" for the second quarter are from left to right Greg Kosjer, Derrick Varnish, Dwayne Gresik, Zachary Sheets, Lucas Gunby, Keegan Solomon, John Wieshier, Alec Garleb, Blake Morder, and Evan Smith. Row 2 Left to Right: Autumn Rogers, Kate Rafas, Erin Carter, Teasha Thomas, Lovazia Henry, Jade Bridges, Meghan Young, Samantha Ressler, Brendallyn Gress, and Jennifer Lambert. Mrs. Loretta Golden is in the back row. Absent from photo are Dominique Brandon and Ty Hale.

A **wesome Math-letes:** The students recognized as the "Awesome A's" in Mrs. Golden's Pre-Algebra class have a chance to earn another nickname and add to their wardrobe, too. The "Awesome A's" can become "Math-letes" and take home a special "Math-lete" T-shirt by excelling in the classroom. The guidelines: Students earning the top three percentage grades in each class are awarded the T-shirts. For the second

grading period, the "Awesome A's" lived up to their billing as multiple students tied for one of the top three spots. Those who took home "Math-lete" T-shirts for the second quarter included: Greg Kosjer; Derrick Varnish; Dwayne Gresik; Zachary Sheets; Lucas Gunby; Keegan Solomon; John Wieshier; Alec Garleb; Blake Morder; Evan Smith; Autumn Rogers; Kate Rafas; Erin Carter; Teasha Thomas; Lovazia Henry; Jade Bridges; Meghan

Young; Samantha Ressler; Brendallyn Gress; and Jennifer Lambert, Dominique Brandon and Ty Hale.

Read On:

Grade 6 students began participating in the Success for All Reading Edge Program this year. The program is designed to help students build a strong phonetic skill base, fluency, comprehension strategies and study skills

while also increasing vocabulary. The components of the Reading Edge Program are instituted by cooperative learning groups, partner reading, classroom discussions and writing assignments. According to the 4Sight Reading Assessment that "was taken in January, Johnstown Middle School's reading proficiency increased by 25 percent.

TLC Contact Information:

Johnstown Middle School's Trojan Learning Center (TLC) assists students in four realms – academic achievement; character education; parental involvement; and artistic and cultural activities. Students are taught how to use vocational tools, radio and advertising skills and Internet operations. For information, contact Bill Lohr at 533-5570, extension 1010.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

School Board Members

January was National School Director Recognition Month, and Greater Johnstown School District put its dedicated board members into the spotlight.

Each of Greater Johnstown's board members received a certificate in appreciation of their devoted service to the district throughout the year. The certificates recognized the board members' time and commitment to making Greater Johnstown School District and its students among the best in the state. The board also was praised because **no tax increases** are expected in the district.

The Board of Directors includes: Richard Unger, President; John Berzinsky, Vice President; John Kuzmiak, Solicitor; Debra Crowder, Board Secretary; Edwin Mikesic; Kimberly Murray; Eugene Pentz; Kevin Price; Doris Todorich; Vincent Arcurio; and Raymond Arcurio.

IT'S GAME TIME

Making Strides: The Johnstown girls soccer team finished with a 7-9 mark, which was among the best records in the program's recent history. Coach Melana Pavic and assistant coach Allyssa Arcurio saw plenty of reasons for optimism. Stephanie Szczur was named to the all-LHAC team. The girls soccer team also raised money for the local food pantry, asking for donations throughout the season.

Strong Showing: Veteran coach Joe Ramirez's Trojans girls tennis team showed marked improvement, advancing to the District 6 singles and doubles tournaments after posting four victories. Senior Suzannah Mayer was named an all-LHAC selection.

Getting Their Kicks: The Trojans boys soccer team had two all-LHAC picks in James Baigmoradi and Bobby Hellman. New coach Chris

Phillips took over the team just prior to the season and began building a foundation for future success.

Net Action: Coach Crystal Prebaha-la's volleyball squad worked hard and learned valuable lessons through a challenging season in the tough LHAC. Greater Johnstown's representative on the all-LHAC squad was Darrin Blake.

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TROJAN TRIUMPHS

Works of Art: Greater Johnstown School District will be well represented at the St. Francis University Art Gallery's "Artists of the 21st Century: Student Art Exhibition" at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art. Johnstown High School students whose work is in the exhibition are: Cyrus Benson; Janelle Binnie; Amanda Cramer; Aaron Eash; Ryan Fondelier; Jamie Mizak; Andrew Rose; Hannah Sandak; and Stephanie Szczer. Johnstown Middle School artists in the gallery are: Lovazia Henry; Shawn Hummel; Amanda McClain; and Taylor Veney. East Side Elementary students whose art is on display are: Logan Gagan; Jaden Gordon; Jeremy Kolar; Selena Miller; and Madelena Price.

Helping Hands: The Johnstown High School Key Club members were to assist the downtown Family Kitchen and The Atrium on Main Street on Feb. 16. The students helped in the preparation, serving and clean-up of lunch for citizens in our area. Those students traveling to The Atrium also were to participate in a "clean-up" day at the facility. Johnstown students were to clean and paint hallways and rooms at the senior-living facility. Johnstown Key Club advisors Mr. Michael Vuckovich, Mr. Robert Heinrich, Mr. Tom Staib and Mr. William Brotz each supervised the project.

Colorful Performance: The Trojans color guard had a successful preseason performance at the

Johnstown Middle School on Jan. 27. Twenty-seven area schools participated in the preseason tune up. The Johnstown color guard will hold a show at West Side Elementary on April 21.

All that Jazz: Johnstown senior Ricky Shook attended the District Jazz Band event at Hollidaysburg High School on Feb. 1-2. Shook, junior Dave Mishler and sophomore Alex Skufca participated in District Band at Meyersdale High on Feb. 8-10. Senior Theresia Hanson, Mishler, senior Darrin Allevato and senior Marina Bible performed at the District Orchestra at Altoona High School. Senior Justin Wested and sophomore Autumn Barrett attended District Chorus at Westmont High School.

Stamp of Approval: The Johnstown High Concert Band is preparing four pieces for its first ever Wildwood (N.J.) competition in May. A composition by local composer Jack Stamp of Indiana University of Pennsylvania will be featured. Dr. Stamp is scheduled to attend several rehearsals and work with the concert band. "In my opinion, the concert band is of the highest quality I have seen in my time at JHS," band director Mr. Dan Myers said. "We've always had a few good players but this is the first time we've had the total package. That is in large part due to the hard work of the elementary and middle school teachers as well as the administrative support." For the first time, the band will

sell advertisements for the spring concert program in an attempt to defray the cost of the Wildwood trip. Contact Mr. Myers at the high school if interested in an ad.



Superintendent
Barb Parkins

Administrator
Thomas Kalinyak, *Business Manager*

Board of Directors
Richard Unger, *President*
John Berzinsky, *Vice President*
John Kuzmiak, *Solicitor*
Debra Crowder, *Board Secretary*
Edwin Mikesic
Kimberly Murray
Eugene Pentz
Kevin Price
Doris Todorich
Vincent Arcurio
Raymond Arcurio

High School
Dan Resenic, *Principal*
Don Cavis, *Assistant Principal*
Doug Henry, *Assistant Principal*

Middle School
Darren Buchko, *Principal*
Frank Frontino, *Assistant Principal*

East Side
Theresa Ritter, *Principal*
Dr. John Jubas, *Assistant Principal/*
Public Relations

West Side
Robert Beatty, *Principal*
Rita Redden, *Assistant Principal*

With Support from Federal Programs
Title 1

Contact Us At:
Johnstown High School 814 533-5601
Johnstown Middle School 814 533-5570
East Side Elementary 814 533-5550
West Side Elementary 814 533-5540
Athletic Department 814 533-5601, ext. 1022

Greater Johnstown
School District's

1,000

POINTS OF LIGHT

In the last issue of Trojan Times, Superintendent Barbara Parkins highlighted the theme of Greater Johnstown School District's 1,000 Points of Light. Superintendent Parkins asked Trojan Times readers to submit their own ideas, highlighting milestones within the district. When the school district recently retired Johnstown graduate Kurt Hoffman's No. 54 boys basketball jersey, a link to Superintendent Parkins' GJSD 1,000 Points of Light became obvious. The 1,000 Points of Light concept is by no means limited to athletic events, such as the football team playing in its 1,000th varsity game last fall. But the ceremony honoring Kurt Hoffman created interest in Trojans hoops history.

Hoffman finished as Johnstown's all-time leading scorer with 1,533 career points. The first-team all-state selection also had 1,058 rebounds. But Kurt isn't the only talented 1,000-point scorer to graduate from Greater Johnstown. History buffs will remember 1973 graduate Don Maser, who scored 1,400 points for the previous record. Other 1,000-point scorers in the boys program are Charles Jeffers (1,183 points from 1963-66), former NBA player Pat Cummings (1,136 points, 1973-74), Frank Tomera (1,055 points, 1988-92) and Mark Horner (1,046 points, 1985-86).

The Johnstown High girls basketball 1,000-point scorers are Becky Siembak (1,733 points, 1998-99), Crystal Andrews (1,423 points, 2003-04), Jill Maurer (1,274 points, 2003-04), Cindy Dyda (1,009 points, 1983-84) and Krista Pisarski (1,007 points, 1997-98).

If you have an idea for GJSD's 1,000 Points of Light, submit it to thousandpoints@gjtd.net.

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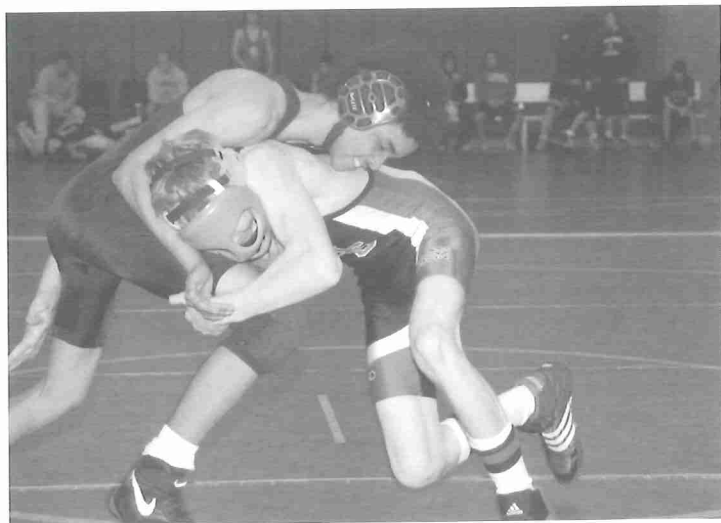
Numbers Game: Greater Johnstown's boys basketball program retired the jersey No. 54 in honor of 2006 graduate Kurt Hoffman, who currently plays for the NCAA Division I St. Francis University team. The ceremony was held on Jan. 31 during a game against rival Bishop McCort at Stofko Gymnasium. Hoffman broke Johnstown's 33-year-old career scoring record by netting 1,533 points. The former mark was 1,400 set by Don Maser in 1973. Hoffman also had 1,058 career rebounds and was a first-team Associated Press all-state selection.

Trojans Tradition: Coach John Fuschino's boys basketball team remained one of the top squads in the LHAC with a relatively young team that stepped into its own after the graduation of four veterans. Sophomore Paul Weatherly and senior Demetrius Young led JHS in scoring and rebounding.

Moving Up: Coach Tom Rovida's squad showed improvement in the LHAC. Junior forward-center Tanea Preston and senior guard DaShawna Hardison were among the team leaders.

Mat Action: Junior 171-pounder Will Harris earned Outstanding Wrestler honors at the season-opening Conemaugh Township Tournament. Trojans senior 285-pounder Aaron Brezovic, junior 135-pounder Shawn Lehman and senior 215-pounder Ezekial Miller also had solid showings throughout the season.

Photos Courtesy of JT Allen



Greater Johnstown's 103-pounder, Gabe March (left), counters a move by a Sherando High School opponent during the Richland High School Dual Meet Tournament January 20th.

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Next Generation: Johnstown's junior high boys basketball team had a stellar season. Head coach Lonnie Bush and assistant coach Ryan Durham's team was undefeated in the LHAC through its first 14 games.

Ice Age: The Trojans hockey team had a 5-10 record through 15 games. Leading scorers were Steven Shander with 21 points, Travis Weaver with 17 and Derek Grove with 13. Goaltender David Dunkleberger had five wins.

Statewide Recognition: Trojans junior running back Antwan Reed was named a first-team Associated Press selection in Class AAA after gaining 1,461 rushing yards on 142 carries, an average of 10.3 yards per run. Reed scored 15 touchdowns and had four two-point conversions on a 7-4 Johnstown team that advanced to the District 6 Class AAA playoffs. Reed, who committed to the University of Pittsburgh football team in November, and Johnstown senior defensive end Aaron Brezovic each were first-team picks on The Tribune-Democrat All-Area Team.