



TROJAN TIMES

1st Quarter
2007

3rd Q 2007

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Pride in Progress!

BY BARBARA PARKINS, SUPERINTENDENT

In a recent issue of Trojan Times, I outlined for you our path to progress with regard to the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) scores and our efforts to meet Average Yearly Progress (AYP) measures of the No Child Left Behind Act.

This issue, we can take pride in our progress because our high school students increased their scores significantly and we met AYP at the high school level!

Our scores increased 23% in math and 21% in reading on this year's tests. These improvement levels were some of the highest percentage improvements in the entire state of Pennsylvania!

Trojan Pride indeed!

How did it happen? It was a total team effort by students, parents, teachers, board and administration. We developed an improvement plan and followed that plan to success.

Here are some of the key tactics that helped us achieve our goals:

- All students in grades 9 through 12 were assessed every quarter on their reading and math skills in relation to AYP. These quarterly assessments gave us a snapshot of where each student was and where they needed to go.
- Students that needed to improve were provided both 'in school' and 'after school' tutoring opportunities.
- Students were provided incentives for attendance and for taking the PSSA tests.
- Teachers and students worked together to focus on improvement on a daily basis.

You all made it happen and I am writing today to say:

"Great Job Everyone!"

Thank you all for your efforts. I look forward to working together to produce even better results next year!

East Side Stories

Musical Achievement: East Side's John Bayush and Shakir Smith each received the John E. Morris Scholarship Award during the June 8 Fifth Grade Graduation and Awards Assembly. Bayush performed a violin solo at the ceremony.

It's Delightful: A new program began on Aug. 16 at East Side Elementary. Called Delightful Discoveries, the initiative is geared toward young children into their preschool years and is an extension of the "Building Blocks" program for infants that was created in the Johnstown District two years ago.

Feelin' Good: The East Side Elementary fourth and fifth grade students wowed a packed house during the May 17 spring concert entitled "Feelin' Good." The fourth and fifth grade string ensemble, band and chorus each participated in the upbeat and entertaining program.

'Science: It's Elementary': On July 26, Governor Ed Rendell announced children in 57 more school districts, including East Side Elementary, will benefit from hands-on science learning starting this fall as part of his "Science: It's Elementary" initiative. "Science: It's Elementary" goes beyond traditional textbook instruction, allowing elementary students to learn by doing. Classrooms are provided with science kits enabling children to experiment and see the "big picture" of how science impacts our lives, studying topics such as weather, water, balance and motion, electricity, and rocks and minerals.

Photos Courtesy of J.T. Allen



Students Shakir Smith (left) and John Bayush (right) are shown with music teacher Mrs. Barb Gehosky after receiving their John E. Morris Scholarship awards.

Summer in the City: East Side participated in a successful and productive Summer in the City program from June 18 to Aug. 10.

Summer in the City is funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the 21st Century Community Learning Center in the Greater Johnstown School District. Meals are provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, Nutrition Inc. Field trips scheduled included visits to the Bottleworks Ethnic Art Center, Cambria County Library, Camp Allegheny, Camp Harmony, Community Arts Center, Girl Scout camp, Hunsberger Farm, Lakemont Amusement Park, St. Michael Flood Memorial and the YMCA.

Photos Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes



Students register for "Summer in the City" at East Side Elementary School.

West Side Stories

Dessert and a Theatre:

Students in Mrs. Virginia McDonnell's Gifted Support class performed three plays as part of their annual Dessert Theatre on May 23.

Honoring Those Who Served:

PIE sponsored a school-wide assembly to observe Memorial Day as the 2006-07 calendar year wound down. Mr. Beatty served as master of ceremonies, as representatives of the Armed Services presented a flag during the ceremony. Among those from the Armed Services was the parent of then-fourth grader Devin Karalfa-Jordan. Students recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the national anthem. PIE then presented a medal to the children of service men and women on active duty. Each student received a small American Flag as the assembly concluded with patriotic music.

A Head Start: Almost 60 children from Cambria County Head Start program visited West Side on May 21 to tour the building and prepare for their own arrival at the school for this fall's classes. The Head Start students visited classrooms and special areas and were treated to healthy snacks and juice by Nutrition, Inc.

Springing into Action: West Side Elementary sounded great during a special Spring Concert on May 10. Following the theme, "Healthy Living," students in all grade levels performed songs that related to making healthy choices. Not to be left out, West Side teachers also sang their own song about healthy living. A special surprise spotlighted

a group of teachers about to retire at the end of the 2006-07 school year. The "retirees" performed a rendition of "Retirement," a song sung to the tune of Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York." The concert also featured instrumental musicians from the fourth and fifth grades.

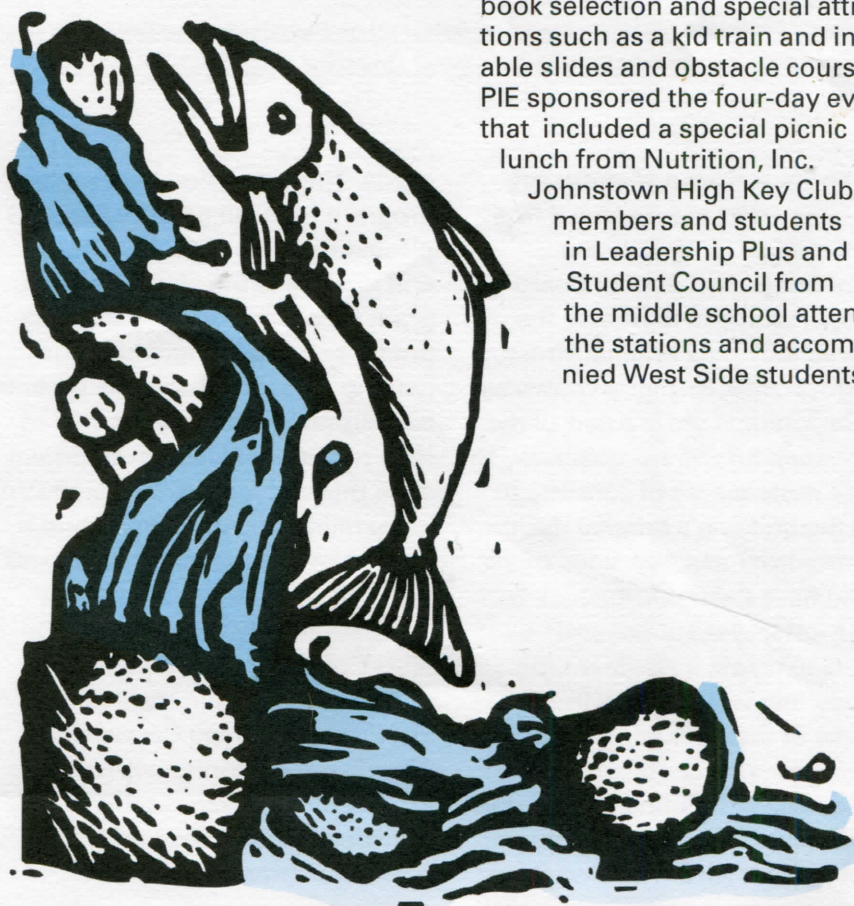
Water Works: Grade 2 through 5 students learned about water conservation during a program sponsored by the Greater Johnstown Water Authority. Dan Lovrich explained the water cycle to students and answered questions. Every child, including K4, kinder-

garten and first grade, received a special packet containing information about our most precious natural resource.

It's No Smoke: Greater Johnstown High School students visited West Side third, fourth and fifth graders on May 7 to talk about forming healthy life habits, including avoiding tobacco. The elementary students learned about the harmful effects of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco on the body.

Fun and Field Days: West Side's Fun and Field Days included arts, crafts, the fourth and final RIF book selection and special attractions such as a kid train and inflatable slides and obstacle courses. PIE sponsored the four-day event that included a special picnic lunch from Nutrition, Inc.

Johnstown High Key Club members and students in Leadership Plus and Student Council from the middle school attended the stations and accompanied West Side students.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MILESTONES

Photos Courtesy of Darren Buchko



Johnstown Middle School was recently refurbished on the outside to enhance the longevity of the school as well as restore it to its original structural integrity.

Extreme Home Makeover: In an effort to preserve a true historical landmark, the Greater Johnstown School Board allocated resources to restore the middle school to its original structural integrity. JMS, formerly known as Garfield Junior High, is a part of the city's history. Efforts are underway to recreate cast pieces of concrete to match the building's original design. The entire front and two sides of the building have been refurbished, and failing mortar was cut out and replaced to create a weather-tight envelope that will enhance the longevity of the school.

Success for All: Johnstown Middle School's curriculum will incorporate the Success for All's "Reading Edge" program into the seventh and eighth

grade. The expansion built on the program for sixth graders that was in place during the 2006-07 school year and in place in the elementary program for several years. Each sixth grader has a 92-minute block of reading on a daily basis. All seventh and eighth graders are scheduled for a required "Skills Development" class that will focus solely on PSSA preparation in both reading and math. The JMS administration and staff will work diligently with the State Standards, Anchors and Eligible Content in preparing all students for success on the 2008 PSSA. The Trojan Learning Center and After School Tutoring will continue to work closely with teachers to provide extended academic and social enrichment.

Enhancing Education:

The Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grant will enable Johnstown Middle School to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in the Commonwealth's elementary and secondary schools. JMS received the EETT grant that is based upon the mission of Pennsylvania's three-year Technology Plan. Five middle school classrooms will be equipped with state of the art technology such as interactive smart boards, LCD projectors, active slates and other educational tools. Students will learn from the technology used by teachers piloting "Classrooms of the Future." Teachers selected for this year's program are Mrs. Stephens (6th grade social studies), Mrs. Zepka (6th grade social studies),

Mrs. Truscello (8th grade math), Mrs. Haynal (8th grade math), and Mr. Mikesic (6th, 7th and 8th grade computers and career education).

Progress for the Future: Greater Johnstown School District now has a Comprehensive College and Career Counseling, beginning at the eighth grade level. The goal of this latest addition to our District is for students to do self assessments, explore career options, gain skills and knowledge, discover future educational endeavors, find marketable employment and teach students how to manage their future careers.

A Peer Mentoring and Tutoring program has been implemented to foster academic excellence, social understanding, career opportunities and behavior modifications.

Safe Schools: The Greater Johnstown Middle School team recently applied for the Safe Schools Initiative Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the 2007-08 school year.

The Greater Johnstown Administrative Team is striving to provide a positive safe academic environment that is conducive to learning.

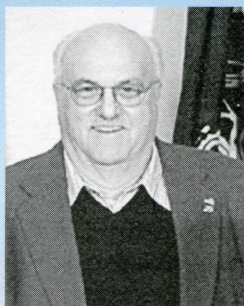
The proposal focuses on safety, security, positive working relationships, violence prevention, positive peer interaction and development of social and, classroom management skills.

Ultimately, the goals are to reduce student discipline and increase the level of academic achievement in a positive academic atmosphere.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Photos Courtesy of Burns
Photography by Roger Kerekes



Raymond Arcurio.

Greater Johnstown School District's Board Director Raymond Arcurio was selected to receive the 2007 William S. Vincent Award for Support of Public Schools given by the Pennsylvania School Study Council (PSSC).

The annual award recognizes an individual whose commitment and support of public education goes above and beyond the call of duty. "After careful consideration, it was clear that you were the most deserving of all the highly qualified award nominees," PSSC Associate Director Jillian Reese, Ph.D., said in a letter informing Mr. Arcurio of his selection.

A formal ceremony will take place during the Educational Leadership Alumni Tailgate at the Penn State Conference Center Hotel in State College prior to the Penn State vs. Ohio State football game on Oct. 27. Mr. Arcurio's name also will appear in PSSC's fall newsletter, *Perspectives*.

IT'S GAME TIME

Award-winning Passer: Trojans three-year letterman Brandon Hody was named the 2006-07 winner of the prestigious Trojan Stadium Award during a ceremony in May. The senior quarterback had 2,290 passing yards and 23 touchdown throws during his final two seasons. He also rushed for 134 yards and eight scores. A two-time Tribune-Democrat All-Area honorable mention, Hody earned an academic scholarship to Juniata College with a 3.84 grade point average.

Photos Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes



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Brandon Hody was named the 2006-07 winner of the prestigious Trojan Stadium Award during a ceremony in May.

TROJAN TRIUMPHS

Photos Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes



One era ended and another began at commencement ceremonies at Trojan Stadium on June 7.

End of an Era: Greater Johnstown High School ended the 2006-07 school year in grand fashion during the June 7 graduation ceremony at Trojan Stadium. Olivia Ragno was Class of 2007 Valedictorian, Emma Cowie was Salutatorian, and Marissa Reese was Senior Class President. The top 10 highest honor students recognized at the ceremony were Olivia Ragno, Emma Cowie, Richard Shook, Brianna Charney, Nathan Pearce, Sarah Devine, Maria Muir, Santana Cramer, Katie Miller and Michael Bonnono.

Welcome Aboard: Thirty-one educators and a director of education were hired by Greater Johnstown School District this summer. The additions include: Patrick Barron (JHS, social studies); Kira Baumgardner (JMS, librarian); Jennifer Bawiec (East Side, grade 5); Wesley Bowser (JMS, social studies); Derrick Callihan (JHS, physical education); Mari Cannizzaro (East Side, grade 5); Nicholas Costantino (JHS, mathematics); Jennifer Gardenhour (East Side, grade 1); Amy Gonthier (East Side, grade 5); Gini Gray (East Side, grade 5); Kathleen Hanners (East Side, grade K5); Patricia Harrington (West Side, grade 1); Stephanie Heming (West Side,

grade K4); Jami Janidlo (East Side, grade 5); James Kist (JHS, general science); Brandi Kmett (JMS, English); Julie Korenoski (JMS, LS); Kirsten Kunz (West Side, MDS); Jason Kurtz (East Side, grade 2); Brooke Mayek (JMS, LS); Laurie Molnar (West Side, grade K5); Mandy Nemeth (East Side, grade 1); Kerry Pfeil (JHS, social studies); Elizabeth Pike (West Side, K4); Morgan Read (East Side, grade K5); Tina Rogers (JHS, ES); Brande Seese (JMS, mathematics); Daniel Thomas (JHS, social studies); Damian Tomak (East Side, grade 2); Jacqueline Waltos (East Side, ES); and Korie Weir (JMS, ES).

Brian McDermott is the district's director of education.

One Good Apple: Greater Johnstown School District received a Golden Apple Award from the state for its "After School, Live!" program. Ron Kikta, Director of Cambria County Child Development Corporation, submitted the nomination for the award. Superintendent Barbara Parkins, School Board President Richard Unger and Kikta were presented a plaque during a ceremony in Harrisburg in June.

Lunch in the Park: The Trojans concert band teamed up with Westmont Hilltop's musicians for a performance at the downtown Johnstown Central Park Gazebo in May. The lunchtime concert drew a small crowd and showcased the talented students and the two schools' willingness to work and play together.

At the regional band event in March, Johnstown band director Dan Myers

and Westmont's Josh Brumbaugh noticed both schools' students were playing the same piece of music for their respective spring concerts.

"We decided it would be nice to get the bands together and play for the community," Myers said. "Since the piece we were playing was called First Suite in E flat for the Military band, we called the event Holstfest."

The two bands rehearsed together on the morning of the event. Johnstown played its spring concert music, and Westmont followed suit. Then the two bands performed three movements of the Holst Suite together.

Important Lesson: In May, senior Michael Bonnono, president of Greater Johnstown High's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), organized a mock drunk driving accident with the assistance of the Johnstown Police Department and

Johnstown Fire Department, EMS and school officials. The demonstration was part of Bonnono's senior project.

The mock accident stressed the negative consequences that can occur when drivers operate a vehicle while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Photos Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes



Ron Kikta (left), Barbara Parkins and Board President Richard Unger were presented with a plaque for GJSD's "After School, Live!" Program.



Superintendent
Barbara Parkins

Administrator
Thomas Kalinyak, *Business Manager*
Brian McDermott, *Director of Education*

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Richard Unger, *President*
John Berzinsky, *Vice President*
John Kuzmiak, *Solicitor*
Debra Crowder, *Board Secretary*
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Vincent Arcurio
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Kimberly Murray
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Kevin Price
Doris Todorich

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Don Cavis, *Assistant Principal*

Middle School
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Frank Frontino, *Assistant Principal*

East Side
Doug Henry, *Acting Principal*
Dr. John Jubas, *Assistant Principal/*
Public Relations

West Side
Robert Beatty, *Principal*
Dr. John Jubas, *Assistant Principal/*
Public Relations

With Support from Federal Programs
Title 1

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Banner Season: Greater Johnstown's girls softball team finished as the District 6 Class AAA runner-up after falling 1-0 in a dramatic district title game against powerhouse Bellefonte at Hess's Field near State College in May. Coach Randy Romesberg's team went 15-4 and has won 32 games in the past two seasons.

Welcome Coach: The Trojans promoted Kevin Marabito as head football coach to replace retired coach Bob Arcurio during a June school board meeting. Marabito served as a top assistant coach of the Trojans last season. "It's an honor to be considered to be in the group of coaches that have been at Johnstown," said Marabito, 50. "I just hope I can carry on what Coach Arcurio started – a great program. He's the type of guy that it's not all about the wins and losses but more about the kids leading quality, productive lives."

Marabito had a 47-38 record in nine seasons at Ferndale, including a District 6-A championship in 1995.

Just Like Old Times: Johnstown High football alumni players from the 1954 through 1961 seasons gathered on Aug. 19 for a reunion that honored the teams coached by

Photos Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes



Pitcher Megan McMillen and her teammates finished as District 6 Class AAA runner-up.

RESIDENT

Dave Hart and assistant coach Blackie Mihalic.

The reunion at Hoss's Restaurant in Richland Township rekindled memories of Trojans squads that went 63-12-5 under Hart and Mihalic, including a 11-0 WPIAL championship season in 1958 and a 10-0 mark in 1959. Johnstown had a 26-game unbeaten streak during that run.

Thank You Coach: Trojans football coach Bob Arcurio retired after posting a 34-20 record and five consecutive playoff appearances since taking over the Trojans in 2002. Johnstown won the District 6 Class AAA crown in 2004, going 9-3. Last season the Trojans went 7-4.

Coach Arcurio rebuilt the program, but was even more proud of his players' commitment in the classroom. "We had 38 kids get into college to play football in five years," said Arcurio, who is 42-40-1 with Johnstown, including a three-year stint from 1982-84. "This past year we had 11 kids get into college. That's our goal. We're really proud of this. We give the kids a chance to move on in life. We emphasized how important education is in kids' lives."

Under coach Arcurio, Johnstown produced all-state performers such as two-time Tribune-Democrat Offensive Player of the Year LaRod Stephens-Howling (first-team, 2003, 2004); Scott Corson (first team, 2005); Antwuan Reed (first-team, 2006); and Mike Kush (second team, 2004). Stephens-Howling and Aaron Brezovic earned Old Spice Red Zone National Player of the Year awards and appeared in The USA Today.