



Selected as a NASET (National Association of Special Education Teachers) School of Excellence annually from 2014-2022.

Maryville Jen School

Fall Issue

October, 2022

Principal's Address:

Greetings and Happy Autumn. Autumn is the most colorful time of year, the trees bursting with bright crimson-red and amber-colored leaves. Autumn is a special time of year when we enjoy the bright sunshine with a bit of a chill in the air, warm cozy sweaters, and taffy apples with hot cider. Nevertheless, as with the other seasons, Autumn is a season of change and a season to prepare for the future and changes to come.

At Jen School, the faculty and students enjoy the beautiful colors on campus and prepare for their futures. Our students finished our First quarter on Monday, October 16th. On Monday, students took their final exams in Algebra, U.S. History, English Language Arts, and Physical Science, to name a few of the core content classes our students are enrolled in. The lessons and skills learned will give our students the foundation to continue learning and growing into their potential.

As a school and agency, we are also preparing for the educational future of our students and our school. Last month I shared the exciting news that we purchased a building in Niles and have begun renovations. Our new building will have a capacity of 12 academic classrooms and eight dedicated career technical education (CTE) classrooms.

We will be growing our curriculum and changing our name and location, but what will remain are the things that make us unique. Our trauma-informed approach is based on Jen's philosophy, our push-in staffing model, teaching pedagogy, vocational skills, and transition planning. Our passion for our students.

We look forward to sharing how well the students did in their classes during Parent /Teacher conferences on October 28th.

Happy Autumn and Be safe,

Ann M. Craig
Director of Educational Services/Principal



Social Media

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CTE (Career and Technical Education): Hidden Talents

By: Stavros Kouriabalis - Para/Job Coach

This month in CTE we gave a task to one of our students. Her task was to create a podcast and teach us something that she is passionate about. She told us she wanted to teach us how to draw a picture. To everyone's shock we found out she is an amazing artist. We couldn't believe that she was hiding a talent like this from us. She said she has been drawing since she was little. Her



finished product was incredible (pictured left). As a community in Jen school, we are always trying to find what our students are passionate about and help them

build on that skill set that they have. Hopefully next month we will have another amazing skill to share with everyone about one of our students.

Jen Events: What's up in the Garden?

By: Mark Trerotola - Teacher

You don't need to look at the calendar to know that autumn has arrived; just step outside and feel the cool, crisp air. As the seasons change, so does our garden. The Jen students are learning about **succession planting**, which is the practice of seeding crops at intervals of 7 to 21 days in order to maintain a consistent supply of harvestable produce throughout the season. We now have newly growing beets, spinach, green beans, and lettuce for the end of the season. We will be planting garlic before the first frost to harvest in the spring. Additionally, we have planted rye grass and sorghum as crop cover and are teaching students about protecting valuable nutrients in the soil. Lastly, we



have received a donation of five yards of mulch from the Mulch Center in Deerfield; thank you Mulch Center! So, if you're in the area, stop by; our plants would love to see you!

In other garden news, if you have worked with our Volunteer Master Gardeners, you have met Andy DeLorenzo who was honored with this year's Jen School Humanitarian Award (pictured left). We cannot express our gratitude to Andy in any measurable way, but we are so appreciative for all he does and continues to do with and for the students of Jen School!



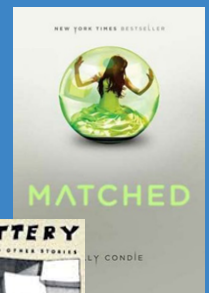
CLASSROOM CORNER

Emphasis on Literacy By: Moissette Mc Nerney

Reading encourages and engages students in the main framework of adulting: collaborating with others while developing critical thinking skills. By inciting a sense of passion, purpose, and pertinence, even the most hesitant readers can be swept up in a tide of enthusiasm. Carefully selected literature can do that.

Miss Mary's class is reading *Matched* by Allie Condie. This dystopian novel is part of a trilogy and explores a tightly controlled society in which young people are matched with their life partners at the age of 17. The main character, Cassia must decide if she will accept or rebel. As she discovers romance, her continuum slides, sending her into a deeper conflict within herself and her society. Mr. Anthony's has been reading short stories with his class including *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson. This acclaimed story is a must-read for young people. Both *Matched* and *The Lottery* examine the meaning of civility, cruelty, and each begs the reader to consider how far they would be willing to go in the name of societal norms. Next up for Mr. Anthony's class is *The Story of Keesh*, a short story by Jack London. London worked as a laborer, oyster pirate, and gold prospector, among many other jobs. He was deeply in touch with nature and the wild, common themes in his novels and short stories. The young hunter, Keesh, declares he will honor his father's memory and become a great hunter. Scorned by his community, he is provoked into going off on his own.

What teachers select to read with their class can resonate with students on many levels, awakening multiple interpretations and personal connections. Adolescent perspectives vary greatly from those of an adult; reconciling those differences makes for rich and meaningful discussions. Indeed, those discussions often become the framework of the emerging adult.



Health Beat

ADHD and Bully Prevention

By: Donna Hoffman - School Psychologist

Awareness issues for October include ADHD and Bully Prevention. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common disorders of childhood and chances are high that most people know and interact with people having ADHD. No demographic is exempt, and it's found in people of all ages and backgrounds. The most common symptoms are difficulty with attention, concentration, memory, impulsivity, hyperactivity, and social skills. The goal of ADHD Awareness Month is to provide reliable information, remove the stigma, and highlight available supports. Its guiding principle is that life



can be better for those with ADHD and for those who love or work with someone with ADHD. Many of our students at Jen School have been diagnosed with ADHD and have

struggled in school due to untreated symptoms.

ADHD is a brain-based disorder that is often genetic. Family history can play a role in children who are diagnosed. Prenatal risk is a factor — along with environmental toxins. While awareness is growing around the world, there is still a lot of misconception. While everybody can have difficulty sitting still, paying attention, or controlling impulsive behavior occasionally, for some the problems escalate to interfering with home, academic, social and/or work life. Individuals with ADHD can be very successful in life. But without proper treatment, there may be serious consequences such as school failures, driving problems, risky sexual behavior, family stress, depression, relationship issues, substance abuse, delinquency, accidental injuries, and job failure. Early identification and treatment are extremely important. Research shows that children with ADHD who receive carefully monitored medication in combination with behavioral treatment show significant improvement in behavior at home and school. When people are not getting treated for ADHD, it can take a huge toll on their mental health, general well-being, communication and relationships, on unemployment, health, and estimated life expectancy. For more about ADHD, go to:

<https://www.adhdawarenessmonth.org/>

Health Beat (cont.)

Students with ADHD are more likely than peers to be the victim of bullying and/or to bully others. October is also National Bully Prevention month, the goal being to prevent childhood bullying and promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior repeated over time that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. This includes making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone verbally or physically, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. When it takes place through technology or any electronic communication, it's known as cyberbullying. We know that bullying can interfere with a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. It can cause physical, psychological, and emotional harm.



When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying, they send the message that it is not acceptable. Research shows this can stop bullying behavior over time. Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help kids prevent bullying by talking about it and teaching students to be accepting to all. At Jen School we have built a safe school environment where bullying behavior is not tolerated. All staff must respond and intervene if any bullying behavior is observed, and students are encouraged to report any behavior (whether in person or online) that can be considered bullying. Kindness toward others, acceptance of differences, and inclusion of all are prominent themes promoted and modeled daily. Jen School's anti-bullying policy can be found on the website and is outlined in the parent handbook (Section 8).

SPORTS PAGE

By: Dan Baffin - PE Teacher

Jen School students had an awesome opportunity through CAAEL to attend a basketball clinic at Shoot360 located in Naperville, IL. Shoot 360 combines



state-of-the-art interactive technology with practical skill training and coaching, guiding you to be the best basketball player you can be. Students worked with professional players/coaches to improve their passing and shooting skills. Students also worked with a strength and conditioning coach that pushed them to their limits. The event culminated with a short scrimmage game against another CAAEL school that emphasized having good sportsmanship and as always, having fun!

Student Spotlight: Student XN

By: George Nikolaou - Social Worker

The student we will be highlighting this month is Student XN. XN is currently 17 years old and enjoys being a part of Jen School. During his free time, he likes coloring, drawing, and hanging out with his peers/friends. XN also enjoys playing board games, card games, and gaming. When speaking with him, he considers himself a basic teenager and is looking to the next chapter in his life after Jen School.



Getting to Know XN

What is your favorite color?

X: Black and Red

Have you ever had a nickname? What was it?

X: X-man

If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?

X: The power to make the world a better place.

What is your favorite holiday?

X: Thanksgiving

What was your favorite subject in school?

X: Physical Education

What's your favorite movie and/or favorite book?

X: My favorite movie is *The Fast and the Furious*.

What motivates you to work hard?

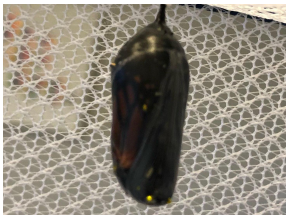
X: Knowing that my family always has my back and that I can help them in the future.

What is something you've done that you are proud of?

X: Helping with my dad when he's in need with family issues.

Wake & Dawn of Dolores

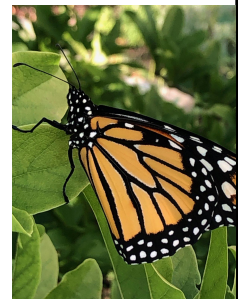
By: JP - Student



You can always find a butterfly during the spring and summer months. Your backyard, a park, or maybe even a garden. You see it fly by and most people just say, "whatever." But how do you feel when you watch the process of a butterfly become whole and mature? It's something mesmerizing...a heartfelt connection that grows in you; like a mother and its child. Let me tell you about a special monarch that dwelled in our class.

Dolores, the monarch butterfly, was the monarch of our classroom. Right in room 606. We cared and nourished her from start to finish. She was an excellent teacher, and an excellent classmate. We observed, she taught, we learned and gained wisdom. We witnessed her eat the leaves and grow - eventually making a beautiful chrysalis and sleeping for a few weeks, for her to come out and showcase the prepossessing colors and patterns of her body and wings.

We knew the day and the hour would come. Where we had to let her off to start her remarkable journey; that 2,500 mile journey to breed and enjoy wonderful weather. I'm sure we will see Dolores again someday, and she will tell us about her experience. I have faith that she won't just be a monarch butterfly, but the monarch of Illinois!



Student Movie Reviews

Reviews by: DS and YH

TITLE: Jack the Giant Slayer

DIRECTOR: Bryan Singer



Synopsis

The movie is about a poor farmer boy who sold his only horse for some beans. Those beans were magic and they made a stairway to a new world above the clouds. The new world was full of giants who wanted their land that they lost from an old king who used to rule over them.

Likes

I liked when the giants were climbing down the beanstalk and chasing everyone.

Dislikes

I liked the whole movie, there wasn't a part I didn't like.

Favorite Character

I liked them all.

Movie Rating (0-5; 0= DON'T WATCH and 5=MUST WATCH)

I would rate this movie 4 out of 5.



TITLE: Turning Red

DIRECTOR: Domee Chi

Synopsis

A 13 year old named Meilin Lee goes through some changes and eventually turns into a big red panda.

Likes

My favorite part was when she turned into a red panda.

Dislikes

When her mom embarrassed her.

Favorite Character

Meilin Lee, the main character.

Movie Rating (0-5; 0= DON'T WATCH and 5=MUST WATCH)

I would give it a 5.

Spice it Up! Student Food Review

Review by: JM

This is my first food review ever and it was a perfect time because we had a new dish for lunch, which has never been served before. The chicken enchiladas were made from scratch, so it was amazing. The first bite was delicious because I tasted the combination of shredded chicken, the mild enchilada sauce, and the perfectly baked cheese. I also liked that there was rice served with them as a side, but I didn't try the corn and black beans, which were also an option. 2 enchiladas were a good portion size, and it's something that I want to try and make at home in the future.

Recommendations: More sour cream and jalapenos on top of the enchiladas.

MAKE THEM AT HOME:

Makes 6 servings

- 12 six-inch flour tortillas
- 2 lbs cooked and shredded chicken
- 2 cups enchilada sauce
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese divided
- ½ cup Canned black beans rinsed and drained
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup pico de gallo
- 1 onion diced and sauteed
- 1 Jalapeno diced with seeds removed
- 1 lime juiced
- 3 cloves of garlic chopped
- 2 tbsp chopped cilantro
- 2 tbsp chopped green onion
- 1.5 tsp Taco seasoning



Directions:

- In a bowl combine chicken, ½ cup cheddar, beans, sour cream, pico de gallo, onion, jalapeno, lime juice, garlic, cilantro, green onion, and taco seasoning.
- Evenly divide the chicken mixture onto each tortilla.
- Roll the tortillas into enchiladas and place seam side down in a greased baking dish.
- Evenly pour the enchilada sauce over the enchiladas and sprinkle the remaining cheese on top.
- Bake at 400 degrees for about 20-30 minutes or until sauce is bubbling and the cheese is melted.