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## **Jericho High School**

### **Parent Newsletter**

December 2010

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#### **Mr. P's Corner**

For me, this time of year is always filled with a certain sense of contradiction. Meteorologically, it approaches the coldest and is definitely the darkest time of year. Arctic air whistles through thus producing a profound chill in the air, while daylight diminishes day by day. And yet, for many, this is also the most magical time of year during which bundled masses brave the cold to experience their favorite rituals, be they playing outside with friends and relatives or gathering to see bright lights shine through the night. As I reflect, it seems that such contradiction parallels that of our area, our country, and perhaps even our world. For many during this recession, jobs have been lost, benefits have been cut, and the season seems a little less joyous. Yet, just like the Winter Solstice (December 21<sup>st</sup>) brings us our darkest day, it also reverses the world's—or, as I learned in Earth Science, at least the Northern Hemisphere's—course. Perhaps, just perhaps, recovery and a little more sunshine will light our world each day in the new year.

Enter our kids with wild eyed enthusiasm and an intractable belief that tomorrow will be a brighter day. They endeavor to breeze straight through the Solstice to bring just a little more sunlight to all of us each day. They volunteer to personally bring some holiday cheer to those who cannot experience it for themselves. They raise funds through bake sales and walks to feed the hungry and cure the world's toughest diseases. Last but not least, they sponsor holiday drives—clothing, food, and toys—as far as the eye can see to better ensure that those less fortunate have a warm, full, and fun holiday season. Please

see the next section for how you can support them in their efforts. They are truly trying to make a difference. With your help, they surely can and surely will.

So, my wish for you this holiday season is that you take the time to bottle some of our kids' unbridled enthusiasm and effervescent hope. Let it out whenever you stare down your own Winter Solstice. Better days are a-comin'. Just believe.

Happy Holidays!  
-“Mr. P.”

### **Holiday Drives...**

As referenced above, our kids and faculty are running the following drives to help our community:

- **Student Council:** Collecting *food* for the Mary Brennan INN, a Long Island food pantry
- **BOLT:** Collecting *toiletries* for Momma's House, a local shelter for teenage girls
- **National Honor Society:** Collecting *toys* for the John Theissen Foundation and Toys of Hope Adopt-a-Family, local organizations that provide toys to sick and underprivileged kids
- **Jericho Teachers Association:** Collecting coats for those in our area who are without this winter season

Donation boxes are available across from our Attendance Office. If you have the ability this season, please support our wonderful staff and students in their efforts!

### **Senior Party Planning and Date Change**

Please note that the Senior Party has been changed to June 8<sup>th</sup> (one day earlier than originally planned). The Senior Class Planning Committee (SCPC) has met a few times to begin planning what we hope will be the best senior class party JHS has ever seen! Toward this end, we need help coordinating the various components of this extravaganza. At the next meeting, we will establish sub-committees so please put this date on your calendar. We hope you will be able to join us:

**Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 7:30pm in the Middle School Library**

In the meantime we need to know who you know!

Please e-mail Lori Caputo at [vcaputo2003@aol.com](mailto:vcaputo2003@aol.com) if you or someone you know might be able to donate any of the following:

- Bottled Water
- Soda

- Paper Goods
- Food
- Snack Items

We are also looking for anyone that might know someone who could get discounts for entertainment and games, especially large party inflatables.

Thank you for your help! Happy Holidays! See you at the next meeting in 2011!

-Senior Class Party Committee

## **11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting**

Just a last reminder that tonight will be the 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting (not the financial aid meeting which occurred last week). The topic will be the college process. For more info, please click here:

<http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/docs/guidance/11th%20Grade%20Parent%20Meeting%20Agenda.pdf>

## **Kudos and Congratulations to...**

... **Michael Zhou** who has been selected as a Finalist in the 2010-11 Siemens Competition. This competition is regarded as one of the leading science and mathematics research-based competitions for high school students. Good job!

... **Hinano Ishii**, a senior flautist, was recently awarded first place at the 2010 Discovery Competition in New York City. This is an annual concerto competition sponsored by the Children's Orchestra Society of New York and it is open to all instrumentalists. The Orchestra Society was founded by Yo-Yo Ma's father to encourage and recognize excellence in music in our nation's youth. Hinano will be the featured soloist at the Discovery Gala Concert at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall next spring. She will be performing a flute concerto with orchestra. We wish her all the best at Lincoln Center!

... the following students who participated in the Debate on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Kellenberg High School: In the Public Forum, **Jason Wang/Jonathan Nelson** placed 1<sup>st</sup>, **Matthew Roberts/Jake Solomon** placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Max Adler/Jamal Egbaria** placed 4<sup>th</sup> and **Grace Kim/Jennifer Yu** placed 5<sup>th</sup>. In the JV Lincoln Douglas Debate, **Alyssa Adler** placed 1<sup>st</sup>, **Morgan Smiley** placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Michelle Rosenthal** placed 6<sup>th</sup>, **Neil Mehta** placed 7<sup>th</sup> and **Anchal Mehra** placed 8<sup>th</sup>. In the Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate, **Kaitlyn Shin** placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Madeline Zarifopoulos** placed 4<sup>th</sup>, **Pooja Nandi** placed 5<sup>th</sup>, **Ken Aizawa** placed 7<sup>th</sup> and **Brandon Levine** placed 8<sup>th</sup>. Also a 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy to the Jericho Debate Club. No argument here!

... the following students who participated in the Debate on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at Schreiber High School: In the Novice Public Forum, **Sumayyah Siddiqui/Kelly Jung** placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the JV Public Forum **Matthew Roberts/Jake Solomon** placed 5<sup>th</sup>. In the Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate, **Lily Lipman** placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Lauren Goldstein** placed 5<sup>th</sup> and **Jasdeep Kaur** tied for 6<sup>th</sup> place. In the JV Lincoln Douglas Debate, **Ashley Paston** placed 1<sup>st</sup>, **Morgan Smiley** placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Michelle Rosenthal** placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Alyssa Adler** placed 4<sup>th</sup> and **Laura Horowitz** placed 5<sup>th</sup>.

... to the following students who participated in special programs or received honors at the Princeton Model Congress Conference November 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>: **Zach Leighton** who served on the President's cabinet as the Secretary of State. **Wendy Ginsberg** won an honorable mention certificate for her committee, a gavel for the full Senate and passed her bill into law. **Nikko Price** won a gavel for his committee and passed his bill into law. **Adam Greenbaum** won a gavel for his committee.

... to the following students who participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual National Chinese Essay Contest: **Sara Liu** who took the Advanced Gold place, **Anjeli Song** who took the Advanced Silver place, **Peter Li** who took the Intermediate Gold place, **Angela Law** who took the Intermediate Silver place, **Eugene Mei** who took the Intermediate Bronze, **Richard Law**, **Richard Zhang** and **Karissa Caputo** who took the Beginner Bronze, and **Eric Ren** and **Julie Rhee** who were Honorably Mentioned.

... to **Trudiann Patrick** who won the 100-yard freestyle (53.43) and 50-freestyle (24.03), the first Jericho swimmer to ever win an event at counties. She didn't just win the 50-free, she broke Olivia Chan's county record from 2008 in the process. Also, congratulations to the 200 free relay team of **Diana Lai**, **Diane Na**, **Dana Yu** and **Trudiann Patrick** for qualifying for the NYS Championship.

... to the **Jericho High School Thespian Honor Society Troupe #6173** who participated in the 2010 Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat community service initiative by collecting food and donating it to local charities. Troupes across America fed more than a quarter of a million people, many of them children.

### **Calendar of Upcoming High School Events**

Please visit the Jericho High School web site: <http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/> for the latest information on our upcoming high school events.