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Jericho High School

Parent Newsletter

September 2010

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Mr. P's Corner: "Roots"

This is truly an amazing time of year. It is almost as if we have caught lightning in a bottle. The energy in our halls is at a yearly high with students buzzing about everything from the effects of the oil spill on the economy and the environment to the precarious situation in Afghanistan to the latest happenings on *Jersey Shore* (the show, not the beach). While some conversations are perhaps more academically rigorous than others, we can confidently state that debate is alive and well at Jericho.

As we listen in, we become acutely aware that our job is to help our students build the thriving foundation upon which—in say five or ten years—they will grow into strong trees ready to weather life's storms and tackle world challenges. Looking to provide the nutrients for their roots to hold strong and branch in multiple directions, it has been our pleasure to meet with all of our students in over 30 small group sessions over the past two weeks. During these sessions, our students received a folder with all the practices and procedures needed to be successful throughout the year. (For ease of reference, you can find a digital version of the folder on our high school web site



under Documents/Quick Reference or by clicking here:

<http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/docs/startup/folder.pdf>). More than this, however, we use these sessions to challenge students to think about human nature and changing the world around them. With the goal of helping students realize that a small action can start a chain reaction of change, we watched the two-minute short film, *Tree* (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFs5vWxW-vc>). Following our discussion, we were thrilled to receive over a 1,000 answers to the prompt: “I will change the world when I...” Here are but a few:

- “Befriend a new student in school and introduce her to my friends at lunch.”
- “Learn Chinese so that I can speak more to students from China.”
- “Volunteer to tutor students in the subjects I’ve already taken.”
- “Stand up for someone being bullied.”
- “Donate 11 inches of my hair to children with cancer.”
- “Raise enough money to buy out companies that have existing cures to numerous diseases [but have not brought them to market].”
- “Build homes for people who have unfortunately lost theirs to natural disasters.”
- “Overcome racial, religious, and ethnic differences inside and outside of school.”
- “Create peace among all nations and eliminate war.”
- “Start by changing myself.”

As you can see, some started small. Some went big. Some were sublime, while others bordered on the impossible. And yet all were fantastic. We hope that their thoughts have motivated them (and now you!) to help us make our school and world a better place.

With this in mind, we hope that you will join us to learn more about our efforts to nurture our own forest of change. First up, this Tuesday, our PTSA will sponsor the High School Welcome & Information Night for all new families to the high school. Whether you are new to the district or simply have your first freshman with us this year, this program is for you. Please see additional information below. This night is followed on Wednesday by our annual Back to School Night where you will have the opportunity to meet all of your children’s teachers to learn more about our curriculum and high expectations. Please also see below for more info.

All told, with a little water, some love, and a sprinkling of inspiration, together we can actually grow the forest of tomorrow. In fact, based upon the responses above, we know that it is already starting to bud. Thanks to you for providing the Miracle-Gro.

See you soon!

-“Mr. P”

PTSA's HS Welcome & Information Night

If you are a family new to the high school or the district, please join us for our High School Welcome & Information Night, sponsored by our PTSA, on Tuesday, September 14th at 7:00pm. On this night, you will learn a great deal about our high school including information sources, student scheduling, clubs, guidance functions, and Jericho Connect, our new family welcome program. You will also have the opportunity to meet members of our PTSA to learn more about the support they provide to all parents in the district. Last but not least, our Curriculum Associates will be on hand to answer questions about our curriculum and all programs we offer. An official invitation and schedule can be found here:

http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/docs/HS_Welcome_Info_Night_2010.pdf

Back to School Night + LC Back to School Night

Please join us for our annual open house on Wednesday evening, September 15th. On this night, you will have the chance to meet your children's teachers and find out about each course's extensive curriculum. Please log into your school account to print the most up-to-date schedule or ask your children to fill out this form with room numbers and teacher names:

http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/docs/back_to_school_night_schedule.pdf.

Please remember to bring your checkbooks as this will be your best opportunity to join our PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) and SEPTA (Special Education Parent Teacher Association). The nominal fees to join these tremendous organizations support numerous functions including thousands of dollars in scholarships awarded each year.

- Schedule:

<u>Period</u>		<u>Period</u>	
2	6:45 – 6:55 p.m.	7	8:00 – 8:10 p.m.
3	7:00 – 7:10 p.m.	8	8:15 – 8:25 p.m.
4	7:15 – 7:25 p.m.	9	8:30 – 8:40 p.m.
5	7:30 – 7:40 p.m.	10	8:45 – 8:55 p.m.
6	7:45 – 7:55 p.m.	11	9:00 – 9:10 p.m.

- Parents will follow a Day 1 schedule. If your child's science class and lab both fall on Day 1, please only attend the science class.
- Due to the large number of teacher vehicles present, parents are asked to park in either the Administration lot to the right of the Front Circle (off Rt. 107) or the Middle School Parking lot (off Rt. 106) in the rear of the building.
- Learning Center Instructors will follow the normal schedule above for all students scheduled on Day 1.

Web Site...Back to School!

Our web site has been completely updated with all the information your family needs for a very successful school year. Be sure to check out the “Back to School” link on the main high school page for great ideas from our own Dr. Danielle Largotta-Smith on making a successful transition back to school.

Test Prep: SATs and More!

Jericho High School has now signed on with StudyIsland.com to allow students to maximize their own test preparation. Designed to align with our state standards, students can take assessments to help them improve their scores on topical tests and Regents examinations. New this year... SAT preparation! Look for information on usernames and passwords shortly.

Upcoming High School Events

Please visit the interactive High School Calendar on our new Jericho High School web site for up to date event schedules:

<http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/events.asp>