

# Potter Pride Newsletter

Volume 1 ○ Issue 1 ○ November 2018

It's a  
great  
day to  
be a  
Junior  
Potter!



## Junior Potter Writing Center Members

Ava Ciocca  
Olivia Collins  
Caroline Easley  
Audrey Hellinga  
Rachel Kaspar  
Emily Koranda  
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Haley Webb  
Advisor: Ms. Shore

## Welcome to the Potter Pride Newsletter!

*By Lanie Springer, 8th-grade reporter*

It is my pleasure to introduce the very first edition of the Potter Pride, designed and created by your very own MJHS student participants of the Junior Potter Writing Center. Starting November 13, these students will also start peer tutoring. Tutoring will be held Tuesdays from 3:00-3:45 pm and Thursdays from 7:15-7:50 am in Ms. Shore's classroom, Room 212. If you ever need extra help on a writing assignment, the Writing Center is the place to be where you can receive assistance in a comfortable environment. In each edition of the Potter Pride, we'll be keeping you up to date of the ongoing in our school and community, as well as the latest in clubs and sports. With everything noteworthy in one place, we offer not only convenience but a good read as your source of entertainment. As said by Henry Commager, "This is what really happened, reported by a free press to the free people. It is the raw material of events; it is the story of our own times."

## MJHS Lends a Helping Hand

*By Caroline Easley, 7th-grade reporter*

On October 2, MJHS students and teachers traveled around Morton to offer a helping hand to various places. The entire school participated in this fundraiser, which raised up to \$40,000.

There were multiple places that were available to volunteer at, such as Central Illinois Riding Therapy, Midwest and Community Harvest Food

Banks, Mission Mart, Westwood Park, and so many other places! The students had a lot of fun helping do different jobs like performing a recital for senior citizens, washing fire trucks, and other jobs that were much appreciated by the town.

Mrs. DuPont, art teacher, said, "I think my favorite part about Help-A-Thon is the rewards. They are good



*Photo by Lee Hoffman, MJHS Principal*

ones! Most fundraiser prizes for raising a certain amount of money is, say, a keychain. You get the keychain, but it's just something that'll end up in a dump. Whereas for MJHS, you get to go on another community project if you raise \$200! I think that's really great."

## Upcoming Events

### GENERAL

**Nov. 7:** Professional Development Early Release (1:40 pm)

**Nov. 21-23:** Thanksgiving Vacation

**Nov. 29:** Red & White PTO Meeting @ MJHS LMC, 7:00 pm

### ATHLETICS

**Nov. 10:** Girls Night Out Cheer and Dance Performance @ MJHS, 10:00 am

**Nov. 5:** Boys Basketball @ MJHS, 4:30 pm

**Nov. 6:** Girls Basketball @ MJHS, 4:30 pm

### FINE ARTS

**Dec. 3:** Choir Concert @ Grace Church, 6:30 pm

**Dec. 8:** Band Concert @ MJHS, 3:00 pm (6th-grade & Jazz band), 4:30 pm (7th & 8th-grade)

**Dec. 13:** Orchestra Concert @ MHS, 7:00 pm

# Students and Staff



## Student Spotlight

By Rachel Kaspar, 7th-grade reporter

Each issue, we'll have a feature on a different student. For this first one, we interviewed 7th-grade Green Team student Quinn Weber!

**Q: When is your birthday?**

A: "July 27, 2006."

**Q: Who would you most like to meet?**

A: "Simone Biles."

**Q: What is your favorite book?**

A: "My favorite book is *Girl, Stolen* by April Henry because it keeps you on the edge of your seat, and you can't put the

book down until you finish it."

**Q: What is your favorite subject?**

A: "My favorite subject would be math because I love seeing how problems are done. Also, my brain thinks in numbers."

**Q: What is your career choice?**

A: "I would like to be an orthodontist when I grow up."

**Q: When are you happiest?**

A: "When I'm dancing."

**Q: Where did you grow up?**

A: "I was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, but we moved to Morton when I was two years old."

**Q: How would spend the perfect day?**

A: "I would sleep in, then go to dance, then hang out with my friends!"

## Word Power

Compiled by Valerie Smith,  
MJHS Secretary

- Word: Petrichor
- Part of Speech: Noun
- Definition: The scent of rain first hitting dry earth

How might you use  
"petrichor" in your  
writing?

Any story about a rainy day is the opportune time to pull out some impressive vocabulary. Play with the sentence until you can make it work.

Here is an example:

"The rain hit the dry earth releasing petrichor, the mysterious scent of rain."

## Counseling Corner Q&A: Concern About Anxiety

By Danielle VanMeenen and Beth Spaniol, MJHS Counselors

Adopted from *Middle Years, Resources for Educators*, a division of CCH Incorporated, 2017

Q: Several of my friends and neighbors have mentioned that their kids have anxiety. My child gets stressed out sometimes— could they be suffering from anxiety, too?

A: It's normal for middle graders to feel stressed from time to time about school, friends, or growing up. It is important to point out to them that this is a normal emotion to feel once

in a while. No emotion is "bad", rather we should recognize our emotions as pointing out something that may need attention. For example, if a student gets anxious for a test, this emotion may be pointing to the reality that they need to spend more time preparing in advance.

If your child is anxious around their friends, that

could be signal that their friends are too judgmental or engaging in behaviors that would be best to be avoided.

But if they're excessively anxious for long periods of time and miss out on activities because of it, that may signal a bigger problem. Anxiety disorder symptoms include worrying persistently for weeks or

**"It's normal for middle graders to feel stressed from time to time."**

months, trouble sleeping, frequent headaches or stomach aches, and avoiding school or friends. If you notice any of these symptoms in your child, contact your pediatrician. They can refer you to a specialist if necessary.

# Book Love

## Student Poetry

*"Tragedy", by Audrey Hellinga, 7th-grade reporter*

What a tragedy you and I are. I once was eternally ecstatic to see you.  
If you were a large boat, and I a dinghy, you'd carry me through the thick and thin, making me feel as if even in the toughest situations, like I could win.  
You were a mast and I a sail, you supported me though the wind may wail.  
But now walking to you is harder than ever. If only it was as simple as pulling a lever.  
Embarking on a journey to find you is tempting, but I know it will only end with my heart breaking. The wall between us is massive and immovable  
From your intolerance to you being a constant naysayer,  
Sometimes makes me say, "I really want to slay her!"  
I know I sound dramatic, but please, just hear my plea. I love you, I miss you, and I hope you miss me. However, I know I am not perfect either. I criticize your every move beside my sister.  
And whenever I am in the midst of a fight, I know I can never invoke in you,  
You'd always agree with the other side, just to make my anger stew.  
We debate each other's wrong moves, like gossiping chess players.  
We are both just a couple of betrayers.  
Among our families, we disclose our latest feuds hoping we have some sympathy to use.  
But in the end, we know this was all an incident, our love is robust enough to withstand any intolerance.  
You are a beacon to me, and I to you, as we make this way through life without a clue. And what do you know, maybe this might be so! Maybe as iron sharpens iron, to each other we'll impose. But for now, my mother, my friend, we don't have to agree, just be there for one another until the very end.

## The Reading Nook

*By Melissa Kruse, MJHS Instructional Coach*

How often does your child read for pleasure outside of school? Helping junior high students develop and maintain a love for reading is just as important as it is for elementary school students. Children who read the most read the best.

Some people ask whether it matters *what* students are reading. To some degree, yes. The more pressing question, though, is understanding *why* they

are reading. More than *what* students read, we want to encourage them to read because they enjoy it...because they are able to expand their background knowledge, as well as vocabulary, writing skills, and creative thinking.

There is one non-negotiable: We have to give teenagers choice. It's a powerful factor in human motivation. Providing teens with options in what they are able to read

fosters engagement and increases their overall reading motivation, interest, and effort.

Parents and guardians, you can help to support your child's appreciation for reading and literacy skill development by taking them to the library or bookstore for a larger selection, by talking to them about what they are reading, and by prioritizing reading time at home. Encouraging your child to read for at least 15-20 minutes at home each day can make a big difference in their reading mindset.

## Book Recs

*By Ava Ciocca, 7th-grade reporter*

**The Land Of Stories: The Wishing Spell by Chris Colfer:** Out of all of the magic fantasy books, this one's the best in my opinion. It fits so many historical characters and cool facts throughout the book, making it a fun book to read!! The main characters are twins who are very special because they have magic in their blood but don't know it.



*By Caroline Easley, 7th-grade reporter*

**Life As We Knew It by Susan Pfeffer:** This is a great science-fiction book about what life would be like after an asteroid knocks the moon closer. This causes extreme natural disasters, but the most terrifying thing is that the human race is slowly dying away, leaving Miranda and her family all alone to face the troubles of the world.

*By Olivia Collins, 7th-grade reporter*

**Liv, Forever by Amy Talkington:** From the moment Liv first gets to Wickham Hall, she doesn't fit in. Just as everything seems to go right, Liv is murdered but never sees who killed her. Will she ever find peace, and who was her killer? Read *Liv, Forever* to join this murder mystery at Wickham Hall.



# Sports

## A Season of Sweat and Passion

By Lanie Springer, 8th-grade reporter

With a record of thirteen and five, the 2018 MJHS 8th grade baseball team made it to the regional conference championship. Without a doubt it was a very satisfying season. With such victorious results comes hard work, and Tate Roley, 8th-grade pitcher and player, tells about the team's effort and love for the game.

"The team has put in more work than anyone has expected this year. We practiced every day, unless we had a game or if it was Sunday, to help reach our full potential. We worked on every part of our game to be the best we could when it came to game time," says Roley.

With investing so much time it's no wonder that the team was triumphant this past season. Through their excellent

hard work, the team's passion has also shined. Roley personally is drawn to the thrill of the mound and the feeling of striking out the opposing players, letting his competitive drive take control. With high school just around the corner, thoughts of yet another championship are on the team members' minds as they aspire to improve their game.

"I know it sounds like a big goal, but our team, along with other players in grades above and below us, have the strength to do it," says a determined Roley.

These young men certainly have the drive and desire, so go ahead and expect big things from these Potter players because they won't disappoint.

## Dribbling Their Way to Victory

By Haley Webb, 7th-grade reporter

On October 2, the Morton Junior High School girls basketball team went head to head with Metamora. With lots of team building and fun, basketball is an amazing sport to be involved in.

Coach Swearingen said, "It is nice to see the players improving. It can be hard work being on a team."

Describing basketball,

player Addy Sanders said, "It involves shooting, dribbling, and teamwork." Entertaining and fun, basketball is an awesome sport for players and fans.

Practice is almost every day. Practice may even be on a Saturday! It takes a lot of time and effort to be on the ladies basketball team. But judging on how well they play, it sure pays off in the end.



Photo by Chris Carter, MJHS Assistant Principal

Cross country team members and coaches were recognized at a recent school board meeting.

## Cross Country Season Makes Coaches Proud

By Layne Watson, 7th-grade reporter

In light of the recent success and finale of the cross country season, we interviewed the head coaches to see what they had to say about the team as a whole. We know individuals have had triumphs and challenges, broken records, and have risen up against competition, but the team is what the Potters stand for. The team has shown some incredible power, grit, determination, and spirit. However, the coaches, Mrs. VanMeenen and Mrs. Eisenmann, are what power the inner flame and inspiration to be the absolute best. Therefore, to end the season on a higher note than even the team has reached, we

have the thoughts from the coaches on the inspiring season for the cross country team.

Q: What has been the highlight of the cross country season?

Coach V: "I think the best part is seeing everyone's hard work pay off. You guys have put in a lot of hard work on hot days, and it's nice to see that you all are continually improving, and it's tied with seeing everyone making new friends and having fun with each other. It's nice to see the team come together as a whole."

Q: What course, or what place, did you see the best performance by the

team members?

Coach E: "Definitely the Dunlap invite. We had the most P.R.'s [personal records] at Dunlap out of any of the meets we've run, though we've P.R.'d at almost all of our home meets."

Q: Finally, how does the cross country season experience make you feel, and what are your thoughts?

Coach E: "The kids have been so much fun!"

Coach V: "I'm sad for it to be over honestly. The best part is to see 66 kids getting along so well, having fun, and doing it with something like a common goal working hard together."

# Clubs and Activities

## Drama Club Takes the Stage

By Audrey Hellinga, 7th-grade reporter

Wednesday, October 24, was the Dunlap Speech Invitionals for those who have participated with Drama Club for the last two months. For the past multiple weeks, 7th and 8th-grade students have worked hard, endlessly memorizing scripts that would later be performed in front of multiple audiences. That also includes improv skills the drama club leader, Ms. Henrichs, has taught. Most scripts range from 5-10 minutes long, depending on how slow you speak, or how you handle the actions characters must do.

One of the drama club students who has been working on one script, one duo improv, and one group improv, is Oliver Johnson. He will be performing at state in the skit "Hickory, Dickory, What?" by Ken Bradbury. The script is about how the two mice from the classic nursery

rhyme, Hickory and Dickory, have become sick and tired of the ringing clock that occupies their lives. Then, a fairytale therapist conveniently runs into the two rodents, going by the name of Doc. When it is discovered that Doc is not good at her job whatsoever, the two mice take it into their own paws to help her instead of the other way around.

Johnson has been in multiple musicals and plays, often being a speaking or main role. For example, in the Cornstock Theatres play *A Child Shall Lead*, Johnson played the part of Eric, a child hiding from Nazis during the Holocaust.

In answer to the question about one thing that has inspired and encouraged him to keep chasing his goal of acting, Johnson said, "People telling me that I'm actually talented!"

Johnson said that his dad has

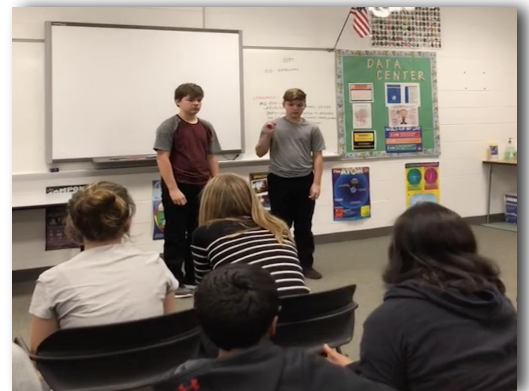


Photo by Kristin Henrichs, MJHS Speech Coach

Mike and Matt Robinson perform at the Dunlap Speech Invitational.

supported him through his acting "career" and that his proudest accomplishment is getting great roles in plays and musicals.

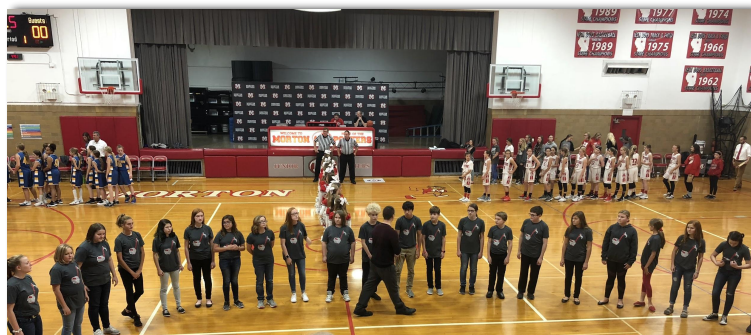
"My advice to aspiring actors is to just keep on trying and you'll get to your goals, but you have to work really hard at it," Johnson stated.

The Drama Club meets every Tuesday and would love any audience members! Anytime visitors stop by, the club members will celebrate their presence with a mouse-warming party. They would love to see you there!

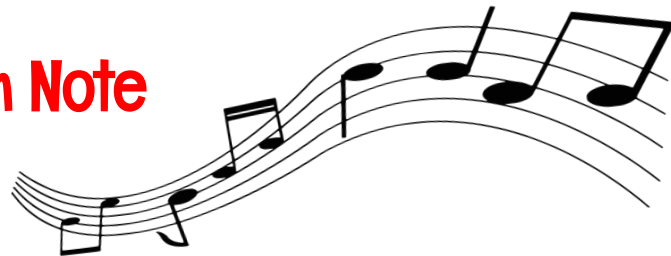
## Limited Edition Starts Out on a High Note

By Emily Koranda, 8th-grade reporter

Every Thursday after school, you might have noticed the chairs in the band/choir room are arranged differently. This is because of a special audition group for choir called Limited Edition Jazz Choir.



The Limited Edition Jazz Choir performed during a recent girls basketball game.



This group is only for people who have the motivation, dedication, and vocal skills to participate. As you can imagine, with practice only once a week, everyone must be able to focus and have a lot of talent to be able to get stuff done and have the challenging vocal parts memorized for performances and contests.

It's always fun when students are doing something that they enjoy, which means the people in this group are always positive and friendly.

Cadence Hornsby, a baritone for the choir, said, "I made Limited Edition, which has boosted my self-confidence and overall helped me gain more interest in singing and music."

# Games

## Fall Wordsearch

S U A G F L B C S N  
L M U P E P G R F O  
H G A A P H O M U V  
K G F G S L B R H E  
H A L L O W E E N M  
P L A C O T Q B C B  
N I K P M U P O I E  
S O O V F B L T D R  
L A U T U M N C E E  
A Z T U M K K O R E

APPLE  
AUTUMN  
CIDER

COLORS  
HALLOWEEN  
LEAF

NOVEMBER  
OCTOBER  
PUMPKIN

## Fun Facts

*Compiled by Caroline Easley, 7th-grade reporter*

Morton's first pumpkin festival was created in 1967. The first recorded theme was Cinderella land!

Morton was named after the governor of Massachusetts. He was an antislavery politician and played a role in ending slavery.

## Jokes

*Compiled by Olivia Collins, 7th-grade reporter*

Q) Why did the broom get poor grades in school?

A) Because it was always sweeping in class!

Q) What do you call the king of all the school supplies?

A) The ruler

Q) Why was school easier for cavemen?

A) They had no history to learn!

## Sudoku

			9	3		6		
	6	9	5		4	7		8
3	7			6	1	9	2	4
7		6						
8						5		
	9		3			2	6	7
9	2	8	1		3	4	5	6
				8		1	7	
6	1	7	4	5			8	2

## Scrambled Letters

*Compiled by Caroline Easley, 7th-grade reporter*

What city has no people?

LCTEIRECTIY

Where can you find success before work?

NI HET DNAITRCOIY

What is something that you always have but always leave behind?

IRSGFPITNENR

*Scrambled Letters Answer Key:  
Electricity, In The Dictionary, Fingerprints*

## Quote of the Month

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.  
Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."  
-Helen Keller