

Potter Pride Newsletter

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Gameball Run Supports Children's Hospital of Illinois

By Lanie Springer, 8th-grade reporter

In the month of February, the annual Gameball Run fundraiser for the Children's Hospital of Illinois took place across the schools of Morton as well as in the rest of the community.

Here at MJHS, we were proud to honor this year's miracle family, the Deters. Madison and Taylor Deters' lives were saved, all thanks to the Children's Hospital. They both feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude towards the hospital and their staff for all that they've done for them and their family.

Taylor said, "I feel like the Gameball Run is very important because it helps to raise a lot of money for the hospital so that they can save lives and help people. Gameball Run makes me so happy because if we didn't have fundraisers like these, then there may not be enough money for the hospital to purchase better equipment, to make the children's

stay at the hospital more enjoyable, and help the doctors find cures and proper treatment."

Taylor went on to give her thoughts on the future of Gameball Run. "I feel that the Gameball Run only has room to grow because, I mean, who doesn't like having fun and helping people at the same time?"

Here at MJHS, students and staff show their support for the Gameball Run with the annual dodgeball tournament,

Taylor's favorite part. Morton Junior High School also strongly encourages lots of student participation in the actual Gameball Run, as well as

student attendance to the high school boys basketball game.

This year, MJHS raised a total of \$113,715 for the Children's Hospital, setting the bar high for next year. However, it is with great belief and confidence that I say we can do even better next year offering even more help to the hospital and their staff!

Below is a picture of MJHS at the 2019 Gameball Run!



Writing Center Members

Claire Chadbourn
Ava Ciocca
Olivia Collins
Caroline Easley
Audrey Hellinga
Rachel Kaspar
Emily Koranda
Lainie Kurtz
Mary Oyer
Lanie Springer
Haley Webb
Advisor: Ms. Shore

Upcoming Events

ACADEMICS

April 15-22: No School - Spring Break

May 1: Early Dismissal @ 1:40 pm

May 14: Passion Project Symposium & Student Art Show @ MJHS, 6-8 pm

ATHLETICS

April 8: Track Meet vs. Edison, Dunlap, Dunlap Valley @ MHS, 4:30 pm

April 29: Track Meet vs. Dunlap @ Dunlap High School, 4:30 pm

May 11: Track Sectionals @ MHS, 9 am

GENERAL

April 11: Scholastic Bowl vs. Beverly Manor Junior High @ MJHS Cafeteria, 4:30 pm

April 26: Band Dunlap Contest

May 7: Arts in the Park

Students and Staff

Faculty Feature

By Lainie Kurtz, 7th-grade reporter

Ms. Windish, the 8th grade Gray Team teacher, went to college at St. Ambrose University. She said, "I majored in secondary English education. It was the perfect combination for me: I got to work with students, share literature, and build future writers."

Since Ms. Windish is an English teacher, we all have to know about her favorite book! She said, "It is hard to pick one, but I have always been drawn to Tolkien and Austen. My favorite is probably *The Lord of the Rings* series. Going on a Peace Corps adventure, I have always been able to connect deeply to this work. While serving in Indonesia, I was able to meet my family in New Zealand. We were able to go to Hobbiton and other filming locations. I even got to meet a dragon in my adventures abroad -- a Komodo Dragon that is!"

Going along with favorite things are some of her hobbies outside of school. She said, "I like to spend time with my boyfriend, family, and other friends. I enjoy reading, writing, hiking, traveling, playing or listening to music, and playing Dungeons and Dragons."

Ms. Windish would like everyone to know that she is multilingual. She speaks Indonesian and, of course, English.

Lastly, but certainly not least, Ms. Windish likes MJHS because she loves interacting with the kids, and she loves the staff and the atmosphere.

Pursuing Passion Projects

By Caroline Easley and Audrey Hellinga, 7th-grade reporters

Every year, seventh graders in all MJHS ELA classes are challenged with a wonderful and inspiring learning experience, focusing on what the students love. What the teachers have done to secure our love for learning is they have let all seventh graders do a Passion Project!

Sounds complicated, right? Well, that depends on how you decide to look at the assignment. White Team ELA teacher, Miss Henrichs, explained that a Passion

Project is a "side-hustle." It's a little extra something teachers throw into our education experience for us to pursue a subject we love in our own time, "work that doesn't feel like work."

For example, a current 8th-grade student here at MJHS, Julie Weeks, did her presentation last year on helping children and adults with special needs in a school setting, as well how to become a special education teacher. Weeks said she has always had a soft spot for people with disabilities.

"I saw people making fun of kids with special needs at our school and in other places," said Weeks. "It made me sad and angry, so I did something about it. I wanted to show my classmates that we aren't really that different from them."

Continued on page 3



Come see 7th-graders' Passion Projects on May 14th from 6-8 pm!

Counseling Corner: Gossip

By Danielle VanMeenen and Beth Spaniol, MJHS Counselors

Adopted from Middle Years, Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated, 2018

Q: I recently heard my child talking with their friends about a rumor that's going around at school. How can I encourage the gossiping to stop?

A: First, talk to your child when their friends aren't around. You could suggest that they always assume rumors are false. Point out that people who start or share them often don't even know if they're true. They may gossip because they want attention or to get revenge, for example.

Then, have your child think about how the person being talked about would feel if they overheard the gossip. Instead

of staying silent, your student might speak up and say, "That sounds like a rumor." They should also avoid spreading the rumor.

Finally, explain that sharing rumors can cause friends to lose trust. After all, if they know your child is willing to gossip, they may wonder if they will be gossiped about one day, too. Encourage your student to only share information if they know it to be kind, true, *and* necessary. This being modeled in your own conversations will go a long way in establishing the behavior in your teen.

Book Love

The Reading Nook

Avoid the Summer Slide
By Melissa Kruse, MJHS Instructional Coach

During the summer, do you attend summer camp, go on vacation, visit museums, frequent zoos, or stop by the library? These experiences all work to enrich your life experiences and background knowledge.

Many people are unaware - summer slide is a real issue. Did you know that in your time off, you can actually lose up to three months of reading skills?

The most valuable way you can stay sharp and continue learning during the summer is by reading. As Donalyn Miller reports in her book *Game Changer*, "No matter what gains children make during the school year, if they don't read over the summer, their learning stalls or regresses" (Cooper, Norman, & Fairchild, 2010).

Reading is actually the *only* activity consistently linked to summer learning (Kim and Quinn, 2013). For children in middle school, reading four or five books prevents significant reading skill decline (Kim, 2004). Listening to audio books is great, but make sure you're following along with the text as well if you want to improve both listening and reading comprehension.

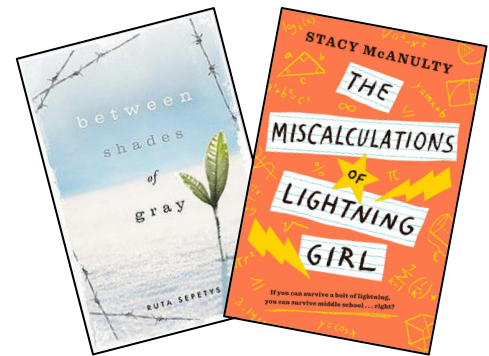
Book Recs

By Olivia Collins,
7th-grade reporter

By Ava Ciocca,
7th-grade reporter

***Between Shades of Grey* by Ruta Sepetys:** This book is a marvelous read! The setting is WWII, and it's about a Lithuanian family -- Lina, her brother Jonas, and her mother Elana. The story is told from Lina's point of view. They are taken from their home by the NKVD and put on a train with a librarian, a grumpy old man, a young woman and her newborn baby, a woman and her teenage son, and many more. Lina's father is sent somewhere else away from them, but Lina is determined to survive and have her family reunited. Lina misses her cousin and her home as she draws farther and farther from it. Throughout the story, they are all faced with sickness, death, hard work, and so much more. If you enjoyed *Salt to the Sea*, you will surely love this one because the same author wrote both books!

***The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* by Stacy McAnulty:** This is a great book! It has lots of ups and downs. The many different characters are Nana, Lucy, Levi, and Windy. Lucy is the main character, and she was struck by lightning when she was eight years old. This story tells you about the struggles and happy experiences she goes through. If you like interesting stories, this is the book for you!



Passion Projects continued...

Continued from page 2: Since then, Weeks has discovered her desire of becoming a special education teacher and has become involved in after school activities such as The Penguin Project.

If anyone may still be unsatisfied with these points proving a Passion Project cannot only be a good source of fun, but also a multitude of tools that could be used later in life, there are even more reasons. Miss Henrichs also said that some of our most commonly used, everyday life mechanisms started as a Passion Project, including Gmail.

"Businesses began these because they saw how it could be profitable to their company. Gmail now is a huge part of Google, probably making them lots of money. I think Passion Projects are profitable to the learning community by making it fun, memorable, and something that students can *actually* use outside of the classroom!" stated Miss Henrichs.

Overall, the Passion Project is actually a very important thing all students could accomplish. Whether it be research skills or the motivation to learn new things, every child's personal Passion Project will help them unlock an important developmental key for their future. So, instead of viewing this as just another thing to get done, maybe look from a different perspective and see this as an opportunity to learn, grow, and have fun!

On May 14 from 6-8 pm, everyone in the community is welcome to stop by MJHS and see students' presentations during the annual symposium. It will be a great event, and we hope you can come to support these passionate 7th-graders!

Sports

Keeping on Track

By Haley Webb, 7th-grade reporter

Running, jumping, sprinting -- that is what track is all about. Starting on Monday, March 11, after waiting until the 4th quarter, track finally started for the anxious 7th and 8th graders.

"Some running events are the 100, 200, 300, 400, 800, and the mile," said Arlie Akers, 7th-grade member of the track team. "There are also hurdles, shot put, and long jump, to name a few."

With so many events, it is hard to choose just a few to do, but track isn't just about getting a good amount of exercise; it is also

about being with friends and having a good time.

"I am looking forward to seeing all my friends after school every day and trying all the different events," said Akers. "I also really like competing against different schools."

As you can see, there is even a chance to compete, and with Coach Don Swearingen you can't go wrong. There are so many different types of activities and things to do in track, and it sounds like the team is going to have a great season!



Team members run around the track at an event.



The cheerleaders perform at a basketball game.

Squad Goals

By Mary Oyer, 7th-grade reporter

Cheerleading is a sport that takes a great amount of talent, hard work, and dedication. From flyers to bases to spotters, there are many important jobs that cheerleaders take on in order to make sure that everyone is safe while doing the different stunts. The cheerleading squad performs at different athletic events such as basketball games, and they always do an amazing job demonstrating their skills! We interviewed Abby Polhans, a 7th-grade member of the cheerleading squad, about her experience on the team!

Q: What is it like performing for the school?

A: "It is exciting and nerve wracking at the same time."

Q: How long do you usually practice for?

A: "Outside of practice with everyone else, I usually practice for an hour or longer."

Q: Why do you like cheerleading?

A: "I like cheerleading because it is fun and I get to spend time with my friends."

Q: How did you get into cheerleading?

A: "My friends had said that I would be good at it, so I tried it and enjoy it!"

Word Power

Compiled by Valerie Smith, MJHS Secretary

-Word: paroxysm
-Part of Speech: noun
-Definition: a fit or sudden increase of symptoms; a sudden violent emotion or action, outburst

Examples

A paroxysm of coughing
A paroxysm of rage
A paroxysm of laughter

"She felt mad, sad, or bad."
Boring! Jr. Potters, we can do better!

Let paroxysms of adjectives and adverbs illuminate your writing!

"The family convulsed in paroxysms of laughter watching the puppy repeatedly startled at a squeak toy."

Clubs and Activities

Creativity StARTs Here

By Emily Koranda, 8th-grade reporter

All throughout the school year, students at Morton Junior High have taken an art class. While this isn't a surprise, the upcoming art show might be. Morton Junior High School is going to be having its annual art show again on May 14th at MJHS.

It's an incredible event where you can walk around, socialize, eat, and according to art teacher Mrs. DuPont, "there are also judges there who will be giving out awards."

Students who have gone through the art class provided by MJHS with Mrs. DuPont will each submit one piece of art that they made that quarter. Additional artworks will be displayed by the art club, also run by Mrs. DuPont. Pieces displayed can range from self portraits to pottery and even an 8 x 8 mural created by the 8th-grade Gray Team.

If you're worried that you can't go because it's on the same day as the Passion Project Symposium, don't worry! You can go to both because they are at the same place and time! This means that in between Passion Project presenting times, you can wander around the art show, get some tasty snacks, and look at all of the incredible art made by the talented students at MJHS.

Mrs. DuPont said, "Bring your friends and family. It's different than a concert, as you can talk and look around at the art and point and look. The viewer is involved."

It's a blast and it really is the more the merrier when it comes to the art show. We'd love to see you there, so stop by and have fun!



If you like what you see here, there will be 400 more artworks like it in the All-Student Show!

Music to Our Ears

By Claire Chadbourn, 7th-grade reporter

Jr. Prelude is a group of violin, viola, cello, and bass players who all worked hard to get into this small orchestra. According to the orchestra director, Mr. Martin, they are an auditioned string group who plays harder music and plays at functions to help raise money for the orchestra. Mr. Martin and Arlie Akers, who plays the viola, shared their thoughts on this program!

Q: Is directing Jr. Prelude harder than normal orchestra? Why?

Mr. Martin: "Directing them is different because I don't direct them at events. They play by themselves, so I just rehearse them during our practices."

Q: Is teaching Jr. Prelude different than orchestra? Why?

Mr. Martin: "Generally, yes, because the music is harder."

Q: Is playing in Jr. Prelude harder than normal orchestra? If so, how?

Arlie Akers: "Jr. Prelude is a bit harder because you have to practice all of the songs on your own. There are no sectionals or independent practice times during the practices in the morning."

Q: What kinds of songs do you play?

Arlie Akers: "We play all sorts of songs! Right now we are working on a movie theme, a pop tune, and a hoedown piece. We have also done classical and Christmas pieces."

Q: What is your favorite part of Jr. Prelude?

Arlie Akers: "My favorite part of Jr. Prelude is that we can all play a piece the first time and it will sound really good."

Games

Spring Wordsearch

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

Leaf Grow Spring
Bloom Bunnies Green
Puddles Bud Flowers

Spring Word Scramble

Compiled by Ava Ciocca, 7th-grade reporter

1. PSNGRI 3. ANIR
2. AFOPROILSL 4. TUEHRDN

Answer Key: 1. Spring; 2. April Fools;
3. Rain; 4. Thunder

Fun Facts

Compiled by Lainie Kurtz,
7th-grade reporter

- John F. Kennedy was a big supporter of Earth Day.
- On the first Earth Day ever, 20 million people went to the streets to help clean up the earth.
- In 2009, NASA planted a tree to celebrate Earth Day.
- The fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day will be in 2020 on Wednesday, April 22.

Jokes

Compiled by Olivia Collins,
7th-grade reporter

Q: When do monkeys fall out of the sky?

A: APE-ril showers

Q: What season is it best to go on the trampoline?

A: Spring time

Q: Why was the Easter bunny so upset?

A: He was having a bad hare day.

Sudoku

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