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## **Jericho High School**

Parent Newsletter

November 2009

### ***In this issue...***

- **Mr. P's Corner ("Be Informed")**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual JEF Student Film Festival... TONIGHT!**
  - **HS Drama Production**
  - **Parent-Teacher Conferences**
  - **Jericho Fire Department Food Drive**
  - **Kudos and Congratulations**
  - **Upcoming High School Events**
- (Visit our new web site <http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/> for the latest high school information.)

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

Believe it or not, our world is slowing down. Recent reports have found that the Earth is actually rotating slower than in any time in history, so much so that an extra second was added to the calendar in 2008. Thank goodness for that extra second, because despite our physical world's slowdown, I feel like the "world" I live in keeps speeding up!

Some interesting facts...

- In the Dark Ages, the amount of new information doubled every 400 years. By 2005, new information was doubling every 5 years. By next year, it is predicted to double every 11 hours! ([http://www-935.ibm.com/services/us/cio/leverage/levinfo\\_wp\\_gts\\_thetoxic.pdf](http://www-935.ibm.com/services/us/cio/leverage/levinfo_wp_gts_thetoxic.pdf))
- In 1992, there were 15,580 reported cases of autism for children aged 6-22. In 2000, the range of diagnosed cases began as early as age 3 and jumped to 93,650. As of 2007, there were 297,739 diagnoses. (<http://www.fightingautism.org/idea/autism.php>)

Many will argue that the *incidence* of autism is shooting upward, now reaching epidemic proportions. Others argue that it is the constant doubling of information that allows for advances in public awareness and diagnostic testing, resulting perhaps not in rapidly increased *incidences*, but in rapidly increased *diagnoses*. Either way, the result has been positive as more and more children are receiving early diagnoses and, therefore, receiving better accommodations from an early age.

But how are you as a parent to keep up?

In efforts to simply make sense of all this new info, many of us unfortunately resort to filtering our news to stories from only a few select sources that cater to our interests or philosophies, hence the rise of Fox News and MSNBC for Republicans and Democrats, respectively.

Our hope at the high school is to become one of these trusted sources for you, perhaps without the political spin. Toward this end, we have created a special section of our web site for you with topics we feel will be of special interest to you and your children. So far this year, our wonderful staff of professionals has written articles on Depression, ADHD, Study Habits, and the 7 Habits of Healthy Kids. Just this morning, we posted an important article on Eating Disorders, an issue that we confront every day at the high school, yet all too often still goes undetected. In efforts to assist you better, we focused the article on the early warning signs.

With that in mind, please check back weekly for new information. You can find the most recent articles, as well as the previous articles mentioned above, by clicking on the third link on our main page. We will update this link each time we post a new article for you. Please see the screenshot below for the exact location of the link, shown with the green arrow.



For those of you looking for previous editions of this monthly newsletter, simply click on the second link for the Principal's Office.

Whatever you do, please keep clicking, reading, and learning. How better to model continuous learning for your children than to keep up to date yourself. Indeed, yours is the hardest—and most important—job in the world. We are here to help!

(By the way, for those of you wishing for a head start on next year's AP summer reading assignment, your task will be to simply read all new information created today, November, 13, 2009. Good luck... you have a little more than 11 hours! ☺ )

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual JEF Student Film Festival**

Please join us tonight for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jericho Educational Foundation (JEF) Student Film Festival! Multiple student works will be screened with an overall winner crowned. Tickets are \$10.00. All proceeds will be used to fund the JEF's mission of improving educational opportunity in Jericho.

### **High School Drama Production**

Please come and see the Jericho High School Harlequin Players present the romantic comedy, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. All shows begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale in Mrs. Rosenberg's office, or through Ms. Minnick or Mr. Verderber. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

We once invite you to one of our most important events of the year. Please join us for annual Parent-Teacher Conferences. Please see the descriptions of each day for more information.

- **Tuesday (11/24):** 4:00-5:30, 7:00-9:00pm: Only parents who have been officially contacted for conferences by the school should come this evening.
- **Wednesday (11/25):** 8:30am-12:30pm: An open session will be available to all parents who wish to speak with their children's teachers. Appointments will be on a first come, first serve basis. Parents will sign up outside the teachers' classrooms for 10-minute appointments. Sign-up sheets will be available starting at 8:15am outside the classrooms. Listings of teacher locations will be posted online at [www.jerichoschools.org/hs](http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs) during the week of 11/23. **Please park in the "senior" lot at the rear of the building.** Since there will be no school on Wednesday for students, this lot should be able to accommodate all parent cars, simultaneously allowing enough parking for both high school and middle school teachers.

## **Food Drive!**

With the wonderfully caring spirit you always display, we ask that you help support the Jericho Fire Department's Holiday Food Drive. Please click the link below for more information:

[http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/docs/community/jfd\\_food\\_drive.pdf](http://www.jerichoschools.org/hs/docs/community/jfd_food_drive.pdf)

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

... **Blair Seideman** who just won the New York State singles title in women's tennis. Game, set, match!

... the Science Department that is celebrating two Siemens semifinalists: **Pooja Rambhia** and **Mubarrat Bhuiyan**. Outstanding!!

... **Dawi Shin** who received a Congressional Certificate of Merit from Congressman Peter King, in recognition of being awarded the Jericho High School Community Service and Leadership Award.

... the Debate Team for receiving a **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Trophy** on October 24<sup>th</sup> and for their additional outstanding individual results: In the Varsity Public Forum, **Philip Fitzpatrick/Ryan Schwartz** placed 4<sup>th</sup> (GOING TO THE STATES!!). In the JV Public Forum, **Abraham Fatehi/Bradley Wank** placed 6<sup>th</sup> and **Ryan Alpert/Jason Wang** placed 8<sup>th</sup>. In the Varsity Lincoln/Douglas Debate, **Rohit Basavaraju** placed 1<sup>st</sup> (GOING TO THE STATES!!). In the Novice Lincoln/Douglas Debate, **Jonathan Delman** placed 3<sup>rd</sup> (GOING TO THE STATES!!), **Morgan Smiley** placed 4<sup>th</sup> (GOING TO THE STATES!!) and **Peter Zhou** placed 6<sup>th</sup> (1/2 qualified for states). In the JV Lincoln Douglas Debate, **Sydney Mendelsohn** placed 3<sup>rd</sup> (1/2 qualified for states), **Jake Siegel** placed 5<sup>th</sup> (GOING TO THE STATES!!) and **Dylan Kugler** placed 8th.

... to **Joe Gallo** who won the News 12 Scholar Athlete Award. Congratulations also to **Trudi Ann Patrick** who qualified for the New York State Swim Championship in the 100 yard freestyle and the **Girls' Varsity Swimming Team** who placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Nassau County. The **Boys' Badminton** went undefeated as Nassau County champions this year!

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

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