

February 2012

# News from John Adams Middle School

From Mrs. Joan Valentine, Principal

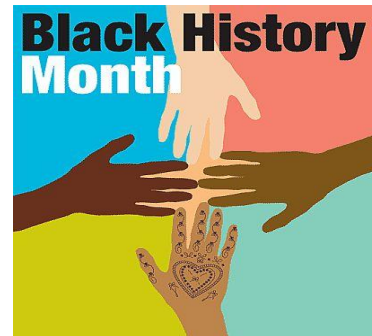
Dear Parent/Guardian:

As the new principal of John Adams Middle School, I appreciate all you have done to welcome me. I especially appreciate all you are doing to support, guide, and assist your children as they learn more and more each day about what it takes to become knowledgeable, productive, respectful citizens. Your daily efforts and interactions truly do make a difference – please continue to take the time to show them how much you care!



It's hard to believe that it is already February and we are half-way through the school year! JAMS students just finished the PBSIS kick-off where they were able to dress as twins, compete against each other in a spelling bee, and show off their school spirit. The eighth graders even got to compete against each other in a volleyball game! The positive recognition is a way to assist students in their efforts to continually do the right thing!

February proves to be another exciting month as we celebrate Black History Month. The students will learn about famous firsts by black Americans, read the history of black history, and find information about milestones in black history. In addition, students will be exposed to the history, traditions, and significance of Kwanzaa, Juneteenth, and Martin Luther King Jr Day.



**Music News!** Special congratulations to the seven students who auditioned and were accepted to the Central Jersey Intermediate Region Band:

Gloria Feng  
Wendy Wang  
Ojas Jangada  
Daniel Zhou  
Michael Wang  
Pavitthra Pandurangan  
Faira Ahmad

These students will be recognized later this month with a breakfast. Becoming part of this prestigious group is a tremendous honor for which we are all extremely proud!

I am thrilled to announce that the following JAMS orchestra students have successfully auditioned for the CJMEA Region orchestra:

Full Orchestra:

Violin -- Julia Li, Grace Wu, Leon Wu and Brian Sun

Viola-- Helena Wu

Cello -- Alice Fang

Bass -- Brendan Seaman & Sahil Patel



String Orchestra:

Violin -- Evan Wong, Debisha Dey, Justin Cheng and Vayne Ong

Viola -- Cynthia Chen & Lance Tan

Cello -- Echo Wang, Christopher Xie & Michelle Hseih

The following students have successfully auditioned and were accepted into:

REGION II CHOIR:

Sop. 1:

1. Shriya Khonde
2. Nandita Shankar
3. Andrea Wu
4. Nitya Iyer
5. Malavika Vivek
6. Shaili Majmundar
7. Jaaee nadkarni
8. Hira Alam



Sop. 2

1. Tyler Seto
2. McKenzie Alvarez
3. Nithya Natarajan
4. jelisa Tan
5. Aarati Srikumar

Alto

1. Ephany Wang
2. Gabriela Abarquez
3. Simran Belani
4. Megh Shah
5. SHivani Sowmyan



Cambiata:

1. Shree Nadkarni
2. Nicholas Yuen
3. Rishi Krishnan
4. Niyant Shatagar

They will have their first rehearsal this Saturday and will perform in Monroe on Sunday, March 11, 2012.

#### All-eastern Honor Choir:

The following students who successfully auditioned last June, 2011 and got their acceptance letter in September will perform with the ACDA All-Eastern Convention Junior High Honor Choir in Providence, Rhode Island on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012 and start rehearsals during the convention from Feb. 15-18 are:

#### Sopranos:

1. Shriya Desai - 9th Gr. now at JPS
2. Nisha Shankar - 9th Gr. now at JPS
3. Nitya Iyer - 8th Gr. Jams

#### Altos:

1. Gabriela Abarques - 8th Gr. in JAMS
2. Jelisa Tan - 8th Gr. in JAMS
3. Nithya Natarajan - 8th Gr. in JAMS

#### Tenors:

1. Shiv Nadkarni - 9th Gr. in JPS
2. Shree Nadkarni - 8th Gr. in JAMS



Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, February 9, 2012 beginning at 6pm. This is a great opportunity for you to talk to your child's teacher and learn more about progress made. Please remember to check the parent portal regularly for updates as well.

The Court Yard Club along with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teachers present "An Evening under the Stars." This stellar 8th grade only event will take place on February 29th from 6-8 pm. During this time, the 8th grade students will have an opportunity to work with nearly a dozen trained professional astronomers using telescopes to look at night skies. Students will have the opportunity to view the moon's surface, various winter constellations, and Jupiter! This fantastic opportunity will be hosted by JAMS 8th grade science teachers (Mr. Bowden, Mrs. Long and Mr. White) along with lead astronomer, Bob Reichman. This evening is free to attend and parents are welcome to join as well! There will be refreshments, snacks and pizza available for purchase at our warming station during the entire evening. All proceeds from those sales will support the JAMS Court Yard Club. This is SURE to be a HUGE success!

The State Department of Education requires that scoliosis screening be conducted on an annual basis for grade 7



students. Nurse Howard will screen these students February 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> during physical education classes.

Other important events taking place this month include the following:

- February 10<sup>th</sup>: Musicalathon – Orchestra
- February 15<sup>th</sup>: Court Yard Club Bake Sale
- February 16<sup>th</sup>: Student of the Month breakfast
- February 16<sup>th</sup>: Valentine's Dance
- February 24<sup>th</sup>: Musicalathon – Choir
- February 29<sup>th</sup>: Evening Under the Stars



If school is closed or on a delayed opening schedule, Edison Schools will be listed or announced. If there is no mention of Edison, school is in session on a normal schedule. Remember, John Adams Middle School will not be mentioned, only the district name.

Notice of school closings or delayed openings are also made via the district's communication system. It is important to keep all telephone numbers up to date so all important messages reach you.

I encourage you to use the school website for updates regularly. I will be sharing pictures, news, and important announcements about this year and the 2012-2013 school year. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Joan Valentine*  
*Principal*

The following is a **MESSAGE FROM THE PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

Hope your holidays were fabulous...your winter break was restful...and wishing you all a happy, healthy, and safe New Year! Time is really flying! The holiday break is over and it's hard to believe that we're heading into the second half of the school year.



Before we move on to where we're going, we'd like to recap where we've been....

The PTO has already provided a "character education" assembly for ALL grades and will be helping with the funding for field trips for ALL grades.

Please mark your calendar...our next book fair will be held Feb. 8, 9, and 10. At our last book fair, the students, as well as the faculty, had no problem finding books they liked. We made a profit of \$ 1046 and will be able to provide books to the JAMS library. Thanks also to everyone who volunteered some time.

Dana will be chairing the next book fair as well. Of course, to ensure the success of this book fair, she needs your help. Please donate an hour or two of your time to work the fair. You can reach Dana at [JAMSPTO@gmail.com](mailto:JAMSPTO@gmail.com).

Our Genevieve fundraiser went very well. We made a profit of \$1496, a little over our budgeted amount. We have no doubt that with your continued support; we can provide the students with everything they've always gotten and MORE!

An easy way to ensure that we can continue to move forward would be to "Opt Out" if you haven't already done so. What better tax deduction than one your child will benefit from directly?

Another way to help is to collect Box Tops and send them in. The deadline for our next Box Tops collection is Feb.15th 2012.

We also have a Recycling Program at JAMS.

Once again JAMS will be collecting empty inkjet cartridges and laser toners for recycling. Our school could receive up to \$4.00 for each cartridge depending on type and brand. This will directly benefit our school and the students- not to mention it is great for the environment! You can help by bringing in your empty inkjet cartridges and laser toners. Our second collection will start on February 13th and end on February 24th. A collection box will be located in the school office. Thank you for your support!

Our next PTO meeting is scheduled for Wednesday ,March 7th, at 7:00 P.M. Please come out and join us. Attending the meetings is a great way to be kept informed and it is a good time to present any suggestions or ideas that you may have. On another note, if the second half of the school year goes as quickly as the first, now would be a good time to start thinking about how you'd like to be involved for next year. If you have any questions and/or would like to volunteer for a board/chairperson position, please contact Sowmya at [JAMSPTO@Gmail.com](mailto:JAMSPTO@Gmail.com).

Below are the dates of our scheduled PTO meetings for the remainder of this school year. Hopefully, having advance notice of the meetings will allow everyone some time to "juggle" their schedules so they can make it to as many meetings as possible.

April 4th and May 2nd at 7:00 P.M. in the cafeteria.

Your child will soon be receiving an order form to purchase a Memory Book. The cost of this hardcover, full-color, 80+ page book is \$25. Please support the 8th grade class while preserving your child's memories of John Adams Middle School.

Please remember to ask your children daily to check their backpacks for flyers regarding upcoming events. Flyers, the school website, and the PTO email group are our best means of informing you of John Adams upcoming events.

Looking forward to continuing to work together to make the 2011-2012 school year a FABULOUS and MEMORABLE year for ALL our children!

Sowmya, Girjadai (Seerani), Poline, Nancy, Lisa and Gina