

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

Today as I completed my run, I was thankful the morning journey was finished. It clearly had a start and finish, with slow miles in between. This "journey" led me to think of other journeys in our lives, those with starting points and finish lines, and the many that have no end.

On June 4th, a crew of twelve fine young adults moved a tassel and ended a journey. In many ways, these students exemplify the JCS journey. They have shown a high level of academic achievement, with half of the class ending their high school career with a GPA above 4.0. We had a class of servant leaders, including a "Service over Self" scholarship recipient from the Rotarians of Johnstown. Some students were celebrated because of their excellence in fine arts and athletics. Importantly, they sang together in worship, "I've seen the evidence of your goodness, all over my life." But my question was, is their journey with JCS completed? I hope not. As alumni, they carry pieces of JCS with them and possibly one day will return to JCS as a parent or educator. Currently, 32 of our patron families were former students at JCS and eight of our staff members are alumni. I pray they will continue this journey by remembering to pray for JCS for years to come.

To the parents reading this, it may appear my parenting journey is over, as my youngest daughter was a 2021 graduate of JCS. But, I imagine, as any parent would concur, our parenting journey is never over. As seasons of life change and develop, our roles do too, but the role of parenting is not one we remove. "Children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord" Psalm 127:3.

When I reflect on the JCS journey, Christian education on Soap Hollow Road had a starting point of 1944, when a group of young Mennonite families had a vision of a different education for their children. Daniel Glick noted, "The least we can give our children is a Christian church, Christian school, and a Christian home. Our vision is often blurred. When Christianity is minimized so

much as to leave it out of the curriculum, our youth will suffer. Remember we are investing in our youth, which is the best investment." Well said and this investment continues 77 years later. We are journeying on a path started by these visionaries. I pray we are forging a strong path for those who are yet to come.

As we sit with potential JCS families, I ask them to tell us about their faith journey. This may include what God is teaching them now, a bit about their faith history, and much more. Often during these interviews, I have had the honor of sitting with Mrs. Cathy Spory, who will frequently comment on this continual journey with Jesus. And it is a continual journey. Coach and former NBA player Tony Bennett says, "We ask our guys in the offsea-

son: If you played last year's version of yourself one-on-one, could you dominate yourself now? If you can't say yes, then you have not done your job improving." If we look at this beyond athletics (I am not dominating anyone playing one-on-one), am I stronger and growing in my journey with Christ? Does today's version of Celeste look, sound, and act more like Jesus than last year's version? I pray it is so. Blessings on your journey.

Postscript: Mrs. Spory's comments come from the great journey she has had at JCS. From the roles of student, alumni, patron, teacher, and administrator, she has been on the great journey that is Johnstown Christian School. This year, Cathy will be altering her journey at JCS, as she passes on the role of Elementary Principal to Mrs. Melinda Hodges, but will remain teaching in our kindergarten classroom. Mrs. Spory has been an encour-

agement to many of us on our journey. Many thanks to Cathy Spory and blessings for Melinda Hodges as she leads on new paths.



*Celeste Sprankle*

Celeste Sprankle, Administrator

# Events

## Graduation 2021

Congratulations to the Class of 2021. Graduation was held on June 4 at Emmanuel Church. We lift them up as they've made plans (see below) and pray the Lord determines their steps (Proverbs 16:9).

<b>Daryl Baker</b> .....	<i>Geneva College, Computer Engineering</i>
<b>Vincent Burkey</b> .....	<i>Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center, Automotive Collision Repair &amp; Refinishing</i>
<b>Nathan Hart</b> .....	<i>Air National Guard; Air Traffic Controller</i>
<b>Rachel Hartman</b> .....	<i>Messiah University, Athletic Training</i>
<b>Alexi McDowell</b> .....	<i>Cedarville University, Accounting and English</i>
<b>Reilly McKay</b> .....	<i>St. Vincent College, Communications</i>
<b>Casey Miller</b> .....	<i>Penn Highlands Community College, Undecided</i>
<b>Isaac Miller</b> .....	<i>Google Certification, IT Support</i>
<b>Elianah Parker</b> .....	<i>Penn State University, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences</i>
<b>Lillie Sprankle</b> .....	<i>Mount Aloysius College , Nursing</i>
<b>Andrew Taylor</b> .....	<i>Pensacola Christian College, Pastoral Ministries</i>
<b>Jaiel Taylor</b> .....	<i>Penn Highlands Community College, Business Management</i>





## Feed the Need

We held our second Feed the Need campaign this spring. Students spent five weeks asking for sponsorships as a fundraiser to support JCS and our ministry: Engaging Minds, Building Character, Deepening Faith. The fundraiser concluded with an all-school “Packing Party” on Friday, March 26, 2021. Students packaged 10,000 meals in just four hours, and it all fit in 42 boxes. Joy overflowed in our building as students worked together to make a difference locally and globally! This year 8,500 meals were shipped to Haiti, where local Christian schools serve them in an effort to encourage attendance. While in class, students receive instruction in English, Mathematics, and, most importantly, they are able to hear the GOSPEL, all while being shown Christ’s love! The remaining 1,500 meals were distributed to New Day Inc., The Big Table Dinner - Hornerstown, and Johnstown Soup Kitchen.



### THANK YOU to our Corporate Sponsors

— SILVER LEVEL —



— BRONZE LEVEL —

Action Accounting

Allied Resources Medical Staffing

CBIZ Insurance Services

Greater Johnstown Christian Fellowship

JFW Industries

Kabler/Thomas Financial Group

The Health Insurance Place



## Pablo Sánchez— Physical Education Aide

Pablo Sánchez joined the JCS family this winter from Service Adventure, Johnstown. Pablo is from Argentina. Pablo's plans are to become a Physical Education Teacher, so during his time with JCS, he assisted Mr. Sprinkle. He also assisted in other elementary classes.

Pablo would like to thank Mr. Sprinkle, who "has been my mentor and my teacher this year." He is thankful for the opportunity to work by his side helping and learning under him.

Pablo also shared that JCS is one of the nicest schools he has ever been involved with. He said everyone was very friendly, made him feel comfortable and part of the big school family. "They respect others, they always speak good about others, they take care of their neighbors. They spread love everywhere. JCS is awesome! It has marked my life and it will always have a place in my heart."

## Events

### RoboJays

The JCS middle school robotics team, the Robo Jays, competed against 11 other teams in the PA Central First Lego League Competition, held March 2 to March 5, 2021. Due to COVID restrictions, teams could participate virtually or in-person at a scheduled time. The Robo Jays were one of three teams that chose in-person. "RePLAY" was the theme this year and dealt with encouraging people to be more physically active. Teams were asked to have their robot complete various missions related to exercise. Presentations were judged in three categories: core values, robot design, and innovation project.

At the virtual awards ceremony, streamed live on March 10, The Robo Jays learned they won first place and the Championship Award which recognizes the team with the highest performance in all areas of the FLL program. Great job Robo Jays!

The Robo Jays advanced to the Virtual Open In-



ternational Tournament hosted in Greece. The tournament took place June 24 to June 27. Over 200 teams competed from over 100 countries worldwide.

*L to R: Oriana Yoder, Hope Ressler, Jaydon Yoder, Lydia Hostetter, Dorin Cook, Brandon Carr, and Noelle Lushko*

### Spring Festival 2021

The 2021 Spring Festival was a great success! We were excited to be able to get together this year to celebrate 40 years of festivals! We continue to make changes and you may have noticed the new logo and signs as we transitioned from "Arts & Crafts Festival" to "JCS Spring Festival." We continue to evolve to bring in new things while maintaining beloved traditions of the day. Several of our changes this year included the new logo, varied Kids' Korner activities, and modifications to our layout. We were also able to bring Chicken BBQ back on to school grounds again thanks to the donations received to build a pavilion and a mobile BBQ pit!

JCS continues to be blessed by the many donations for our auctions, the helping hands of our patrons, and the support of our alumni, friends, family, and community. This year created new challenges, but we were blessed by the way that everyone rallied together to help see the Spring Festival come to fruition. We had many alumni as well as past and present patrons step up to support us through their time and talents. There were so many beautiful, handcrafted items, as well as donations from faithful businesses at our auctions this year. It truly is refreshing to see how God continues to take each mustard seed and make it move mountains! It was truly humbling, and we are most grateful for all that people gave, in every way that they could, to make the day the success it was.

We are already looking ahead to Festival 2022, so be sure to put May 7, 2022, on your calendar. Thank you again for all your support of our Annual Spring Festival and JCS.

~Stephanie Carr, Festival Coordinator



# Achievements AND Accolades

## JCS Speech Meet

Congratulations to the following students who won a Superior Ribbon at the Elementary Speech Meet on Friday, March 19, 2021.

### POETRY

Grade 1 - Sean Fassnacht

Grade 5 - Isabella Williams

### BIBLE

Grade 2 - Zachary Berkebile

Grade 5 - Levi DiGuardi

### FABLES AND FOLKLORE

Grade 4 - Shea Tyrrell

### PATRIOTIC ORATION

Grade 5 - Elyza Barta

Grade 5 - Danielle Coleman

### DRAMATIC BIBLE PROSE

Grade 6 - Avery DiGuardi

## National Honor Society

Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into the National Honor Society on March 11, 2021. Juniors Grace Ressler, Owen Miller, Kasmira Mack, Emmaleigh Lushko, Sarah Huston and Mary Hostetter (pictured L to R) celebrated their induction at a reception with their families. For consideration, a student must earn and maintain a minimum 3.6 GPA and take honors courses when available as well as exhibit qualities reflecting leadership, service, and character.

Dr. Kathy Keafer, former Administrator at JCS, professor for National Institute for Learning Development and Liberty University, gave the message. She encouraged students to find their identity in Christ and follow His path for their lives using their gifts and talents to better their communities.

## National Spanish Exam

The National Spanish Examinations are administered each year in grades 9 through 12 and are sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. In 2021, JCS had thirteen students participate in the National Spanish Exam.

Congratulations to several Spanish students who attained national recognition for excellent performance on the National Spanish Examinations. Because we were unable to hold an awards ceremony last year with the COVID-19 School Closure, the students who received medals for the 2020 National Spanish Exam were presented their medals during the 2021 awards ceremony:



**Allison Burkey ('24)** - Honor medal - 2021

**Owen Miller ('22)** - Honor medal -2020

**Isaiah DiGuardi ('24)** - Honor medal -2021

**Mary Hostetter ('22)** - Bronze medal - 2020

In order to receive a medal, students must be among the top performers in all testing categories. However, JCS recognized students for their excellence in their performance in the individual categories of grammar, reading, and listening.

### EXCELLENCE IN GRAMMAR

Mason Dean, Jesse Dohey, Unity Miller, Zoey Stanton

### EXCELLENCE IN READING

Sarah Huston, Kasmira Mack, Solenna Mack, Owen Miller, and Tyler Williams

### EXCELLENCE IN LISTENING

Kasmira Mack, Owen Miller, and Grace Ressler





## Art Show 2021

Congratulations to the following Best in Show winners from our March 5, 2021 JCS Art Show.

*Anna Lushko - MS*

*Malachi Dean - Elem*

*Emmaleigh Lushko - HS*



## Drama Presentation of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

Happiness is....being able to perform *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* this year!

Johnstown Christian School was able to perform their musical, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, after over a year of COVID-related setbacks. Good Grief! The eighteen members of this year's drama cast and crew put on a great show despite limited seating and mask mandates. With wit, charm, and a lot of heart, high school students explored the life of Charlie Brown and his friends, the Peanuts gang, as they struggled with homework, sang songs, swooned over their crushes, and celebrated the joy of friendship. This beloved comic came alive on the JCS stage as a real crowd pleaser to both younger and older audience members. The Peanuts gang consisted of Reilly McKay (Charlie Brown), Emmaleigh Lushko (Lucy), Lexi McDowell (Sally), Kauan

Freeman (Linus), Owen Miller (Schroeder) and Kasmira Mack (Snoopy). Supporting roles were played by Casey Miller (the Little Red-Haired Girl), Solenna Mack (Freida), Allenna Schellenberger (Marcie), Alana Hinton (Peppermint Patty), Abigail Holsopple (Violet and Woodstock), and Grace Ressler (Patty). Crew members were Isaac Miller, Jacob Huston, Charlee Eckenrod, Noah Hurt, Justin Carr, and Jesse Dohey. In the end, we are truly thankful for the support our school, families, and community give us each year.....what happiness!

~ Diana Yoder, Drama Production Manager

## Band Concert

The JCS bands were joined once again by the Somerset County Community Band (SCCB) this past May for a wonderful evening of music. Band students in grades 4-12 performed pieces they have been working on since January. While the 2020-2021 school year was anything but normal, we were so blessed to be able to continue playing, rehearsing, and ultimately perform our spring concert. I am so proud of every student, not only for their resilience throughout this turbulent year, but for their hard work and dedication that led to a wonderful performance. The SCCB returned to performing at the concert after taking a considerable break from playing due to the pandemic. Their portion concluded with "Flight Of Valor," a piece commissioned by the band after the tragedy on September 11, 2001. In remembrance of that day 20 years ago, the band performed the piece after a moving introduction written by Dan Croft. The concert concluded with the wonderful sounds of a large combined band made up of JCS and SCCB members.







The group of almost 60 musicians performed “Salvation is Created” and highlights from *The Greatest Showman*. I thank God for the gifts and talents of the students and the support of the parents, staff, and administration!

~Steven Fassnacht, Band Director

## Choir Tour

The JCS Tour Choir and Handbell Choir enjoyed five days of ministry at the end of April! We shared our music and message, “God is Our Light and Our Hope,” to congregations and communities across Pennsylvania... Rockwood, Corry, Commodore, Greencastle, and Davidsville. We were able to reconnect with JCS Alumni who attended our concerts, met up with some family members, and made new friends along the way. Some of the songs the choirs performed included, “Jesus Paid It All”, “Lord of the Broken”, “Father of Light”, and “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”. The powerful message through the

songs we sang and scriptures we shared touched the hearts of the congregations and the choir members as well! Here are some quotes from JCS students about the 2021 Choir Tour: “God used the songs we sang to comfort me and many others in the midst of difficulties and heartbreaks. The words reminded us of the promises in God's word that keep us afloat no matter the circumstances. We can praise Him no matter what happens!”~ Mary Hostetter & Emmaleigh Lushko. “JCS Tour Choir was amazing because I loved seeing all the people in the crowd smiling. Also being with all of these people and starting new friendships with people that I thought I never would start one with.” ~ Gabby McGeary. Thank you, Lord, for a wonderful trip for your glory!

~Kristen Lloyd, Music Teacher





## Varsity Basketball

Congratulations to both Varsity Teams who advanced to the ACAA (Allegheny Christian Athletic Association) Tournament. Both teams were co-champions of the ACAA West Conference with a 9-1 conference record. Both teams took 3rd place in the competition.



## Conference All-Star Team

Congratulations to **Lillie Sprinkle ('21)**, **Kasmira Mack ('22)**, **Unity Miller ('24)**, **Daryl Baker ('21)**, and **Drew Taylor ('21)** who made the Conference All-Star Team. They played in the East-West Classic on March 20, 2021.



*\*Dionte Coleman ('22) (not pictured) played in place of Daryl Baker.*



## Tack and Field Co-Op

Five students participated in Shade Track and Field: **Mary Hostetter ('22)**, **Rachel Hartman ('21)**, **Unity Miller ('24)**, **Drew Taylor ('21)**, and **Isaiah DiGuardi ('24)**.



Congratulations to the following who earned wins at the WestPac Track and Field Championships:

Mary: 1st in 100m • 2nd in 200m

Unity and Mary: 1st in 4x100m relay

Unity: 3rd in 400m

Unity and Rachel: 2nd in 4x400m relay

Drew: 2nd in 1600m • 2nd in the high jump

Drew, Mary, Unity and Rachel advanced to District 5 AA Championships at Northern Bedford, and brought home the following wins:

Drew: 7th in the mile • 5th in the high jump • 4th in the 4x400m relay

Mary: 2nd in the 100m • 3rd in the 200m • 5th in the pole vault

Unity: 4th in the 400m

Mary and Unity: 3rd in the 4x100m relay

Rachel attended but was unable to run in her relay, due to a teammate's injury. Congratulations athletes!





## Archery

The team had a great year. They are looking forward to next year and competing against other schools once again.

*Front Row: Gavin Hart, Mr. Burkey, Amelia Shaffer, Jacob Huston, David Struble, Casey Miller, Mr. Sprinkle, Carter Holsopple, and Allison Burkey.*

*Back Row: Noah Hurt, Aaron Viscusi, Tyler Williams, Christopher Burkey, Justin Carr, Elijah Williams, and Sarah Huston.*

## Santa Classic



Seniors **Matthew Bihun**, **Mason Kabala**, and, and **Lucas Haynes** represented JCS in the Santa Soccer Classic soccer game on April 17, 2021. The Santa Classic features outstanding senior soccer players from the area.

## Co-Ops

Congratulations to the following who students participated in our sports co-ops:

### Drew Taylor ('21)

Varsity Football  
Conemaugh Township



### Aaron Viscusi ('23)

Varsity Baseball  
Conemaugh Township

### Jeremiah Taylor ('25)

Jr. High Baseball  
Conemaugh Township



### Lydia Hostetter ('25)

### Ellie Speigle ('25)

Jr. High Track and Field

## Engagements

**Levi Peruso ('17)** engaged to Leah Baum on June 14, 2021.

Ryan Walker engaged to **Jillian Winter ('19)** on April 5, 2021.

## Marriages

**Matthew Hodges ('10)** married Chelsea Mondlhane on June 19, 2021.

Andrew Crawford married **Anna Eshleman ('19)** on March 18, 2021.

## Births

**Seth ('05)** and Theresa Crissman

*Son, Malachi Mark Thomas Crissman, on April 19, 2021.*

**Kyle ('09)** and **Alyssa (Godin) ('09) Krause**

*Son, Theodore Emerson Krause on December 31, 2020.*

Christopher and **Joyce (Crissman) ('10) Knight**

*Son, Jedidiah Ryan Knight, on April 15, 2021.*

## Updates



**Sadie Sprankle ('13)** returned to Budapest in mid-February. She has been continuing her work in English speaking clubs for Hungarian teenagers and writing English curriculum for summer camps. This summer the One Mission Society team will host several evangelistic summer camps in Hungary. Sadie will teach English at three camps in July and one camp in August. In the fall, she will return to her regular work of marketing, English curriculum development, and leading English speaking clubs.

**Megan Hodges ('20)** just completed a nine-month mission trip to Georgia, Alabama, Ecuador, and Guatemala. She says it's hard to sum up this trip in a few para-

graphs, but shared some things learned on the mission field.

1. Community is so important: "In community, we can constantly lift each other up and help others get through the tough times. When you have a close community you know you can trust them and bring anything to them, and they will accept you and love you for who you are. It is important to press into those relationships and to fight for them."

2. I have an impact on those around me: "Even just a simple smile or a ¡Buenos días! while walking can change someone's day. I saw a simple hug have an impact on kids' lives. To show them the love from the Father and to tell them that they are children of God is just amazing."

3. I view God differently: "God loves me for who I am and He sees me and wants me where I am. He sees me as His daughter and wants to spend all the time with me. It is extremely important to connect and spend time with Him in some way every day."

4. Things don't always go as planned, and that's okay: "Sometimes when the days get long and hard I just need to lean on Him and continue to follow Him and He always helps me get through. He has taught me to change things from 'I have to do this' to 'I get to do this for His glory.'"

5. It is important to rest and get alone with God: "Spend time with God, and then He will fill you up and give you the strength to pour out to those around you. If you are not filled up then you have nothing to pour out."

Now, Megan gets to start a new chapter and glorify the Lord in what is next. "I am so thankful for all the good and the bad that Christ has brought me through during this time. Thank you all so much for supporting me and praying for me this past year. I appreciate all of your blessings."

## Deaths

**Dean Weaver ('83)** went to be with the Lord on January 11, 2021.

**Lester "Pete" Harshberger ('53)** went to be with the Lord on May 30, 2021.

**Verlin Daryl Alwine ('64)** went to be with the Lord on June 4, 2021.



# Memorials

---

*"Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all."*  
-2 Thessalonians 3:16

It is a joy to receive gifts that are sent to acknowledge a loved one. We are very grateful for the gifts received from the following:

## *In Honor of*

DAVID SPEIGLE

*Dalton Blough*

## *In Memory of*

CORI ASHBROOK-BERKEY

*Gary & Denise Ashbrook*

## *In Memory of*

DARLY ALWINE

*Doris Alwine*

*Lois Alwine*

*Marian Alwine*

*Judith Hisey*

*Jerrold & Susan Neufield*

*Dennis Noon*

*Joyce and Ronald Telenko*

## *In Memory of*

DOROTHY (DOT) MAURER

*Paul Grancey*

## *In Memory of*

DOROTHY SHETLER

*Shirley James*

*Terry & Sherry Kosanovich*

## *In Memory of*

JANET ARETTA MILLER

*Everence FCU*

## *In Memory of*

MARIAN HOLSOPPLE

*Allegheny Mennonite Conference*

*Catherine Meyers*

*David & Karen Lehman*

*Dennis & Deanna Lehman*

*Deborah Meyers*

*Group Genesis, LLC*

*Joann Stibitch*

*Melvin & Karen Lehman*

*Mark & Sandi Ott*

*Michael & Terri Burgo*

*My Tribute Gift*

*Robert & Susan Stahl*

*Ruth Stevens*

*William & Norma Creager*

## *In Memory of*

NOAH ERNEST YODER

*Craig Saylor*

*Marlene Kleman & Family*

*Nancy Goushian*

*RDM—Johnstown, LLC*

# Notice BOARD

---

## Stay Connected!

Johnstown Christian School is on Facebook and Instagram. Join us for updates throughout the week. The Facebook feed is also on the home page of our website [www.johnstownchristianschool.org](http://www.johnstownchristianschool.org).

Please call 814-288-2588 or email [kmack@jcsfamily.org](mailto:kmack@jcsfamily.org) with alumni news.

## ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL OR LIVING LEGACY FUND

*If you would be interested in pursuing either a Memorial Fund or a Living Legacy Fund in order to honor a loved one, contact Celeste Sprankle, Administrator, at [csprankle@jcsfamily.org](mailto:csprankle@jcsfamily.org).*



JOHNSTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

125 Christian School Road • Hollsopple, PA 15935-8419  
[www.johnstownchristianschool.org](http://www.johnstownchristianschool.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
JOHNSTOWN, PA  
PERMIT NO. 5

# HOPE

HOLDING ON TO HIS PROMISES EVERYDAY

*The Lord is mine, so I hope in him*

LAMENTATIONS 3:24

*JCS Theme 20-21*