

From the Administrator's Desk

Familiarity has several definitions. It can describe a close acquaintance with or knowledge of something. It can point to the quality of being well-known or recognizability based on long, close association. Familiarity can be used to talk about relaxed friendliness or intimacy between people.

I was recently listening to a sermon on the topic of familiarity vs favor. Part of the premise was how often familiarity keeps us from seeing or appreciating God's favor. It centered on the passage in Luke 4 where Jesus returned to Nazareth teaching in the synagogue. Those in attendance asked isn't that Joseph's son? A few verses later Jesus says, "...no prophet is accepted in his hometown." This points to the question, did Jesus's familiarity lead those in his home town not to experience all the favor?

This caused me to pause. JCS has been such a familiar place to me for over 40 years. Do I ever fail to appreciate the favor of God in this special place? We often refer to our JCS community as the JCS family - this in itself points to a place of familiarity. A few thoughts about familiarity and JCS have entered my wonderings.

There are many meanings and feelings associated with family. These are the people who know us best and love us despite our faults. This is the aspect of JCS that causes me to say, "children at JCS feel seen and known." I consider this to be such a strength of JCS - all children are addressed by name and known personally. Staff work as a team in a truly familial manner. Unfortunately, these people are the ones we appreciate the least. Do we forget to express the gratitude due to our family members? At JCS, we have parents who support our work and have entrusted their greatest treasure to us to be part of the educational process. I was reminded at the 2023 graduation ceremony of the deep investment of our parents to be a part of JCS. At JCS, we have almost 270 awesome students who enter our doors daily. Our faculty is working on writing Expected Student Outcomes, these are goals that we desire for our students to meet upon graduation. It refocused me on what our hope to build into students is and watching our class of 2023 affirmed to me, our students are on a path to reach these goals. At JCS,

> we have faculty and staff who are so dedicated to the work they do. They serve families, students, and each other in Christ-like ways. These members of our family are definitely a testament to God's favor on JCS.

Another thought about familiarity is how free and blessed we are at JCS to openly allow the Lord to impact all aspects of our school program. This is such a familiar part of our

* * * * * * * * * * * * * school, that we may forget how truly unique it is. In Deuteronomy 6 the people of Israel were instructed to teach the Lord's ways to their children. "Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." This would ensure that the teaching of the Lord would not be lost as the people entered a land where the people followed other gods. This is true of our children today, we are challenged to impress God's truth on young people who live in a world that will try to lead them away from the truth. JCS is a place where Christ can and is in-

> comes, we discuss our desire for all we do to be centered on a Biblical worldview. This means that all we do is filtered through the Word of God. We teach in a way that allows us to integrate Christian principles into daily lessons, student interactions, and even discipline. Our hope is this raises up people of integrity, of whom there is no separation of what is sacred and what is not. All aspects of who we are in Christ. This facet of our school, as familiar as it is to me, points to His favor.

corporated into all we do, pointing students to truth in all

portions of their day. For our Expected Student Out-

of our school program.

Ultimately, God's favor has been on JCS and I don't want our familiarity with the story to cause us to forget.

- JCS is preparing to enter its 79th year. Isn't that God's favor?
- JCS is the school home for almost 270 students.
- JCS combines a strong academic program with faith. We don't focus on one or the other, but we have the privilege of doing both.
- JCS's growth has allowed us to add classes and teachers.

These point to His favor. As I tour prospective families at JCS, a piece of my work that I appreciate and value, I am always reminded of the amazing place JCS is.



In the Wizard of Oz, when Dorothy returns back to Kansas, she is reminded of the value and beauty of her home and family. Dorothy states "If I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own backyard. Because if it isn't there, I never really lost it to begin with... There's no place like home." In my mind, there is no place like JCS!

Celeste Sprankle

Celeste Sprankle, Administrator

Events

A New Chapter for Mrs. Spory

After 34 years of service at JCS, Mrs. Spory has made the decision to retire and is being honored with a career service award from ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International). This award gives appropriate recognition to those who have dedicated all or a significant portion of their professional career to Christian Education.

From ACSI, "serving with excellence and expertise, Mrs. Spory has worked to implement policies centered on restorative practices. Her desire to restore what is broken has been a key component of her classroom and her work as a principal. Cathy's curiosity has enabled her to continue to grow as an educator. As a master teacher, she could rest on her laurels, but Cathy is always questioning, improving, and learning to best serve her students, the JCS family, and most ultimately, Christ."

Mrs. Sprankle said it best - we have been blessed! Join us in praying blessings over Mrs. Spory's next chapter in life.



JCS PK Program Fully Accredited

Congratulations to JCS's Preschool! This school year, our preschool teachers, Mrs. Lexi Marks and Miss Maddie Sprankle, worked to move our PK program to full ACSI accreditation status. In March, JCS hosted Dr. Skinner, as a representative of ACSI to review our program and documentation to ensure we meet ACSI's standards. In May, we received official word from the Accreditation Commission congratulating JCS. JCS is now fully accredited from Preschool through twelfth grade.

Graduation 2023

Congratulations to the Class of 2023. Graduation was held on June 2 at Kaufman Mennonite Church. Pastor Andrew Taylor from Faith Chapel was the guest speaker and challenged the graduates to walk in the TRUTH they've been given at JCS. We lift them up as they've made plans (see below) and pray the Lord determines their steps (Proverbs 16:9).



Engaging Minds, Building Character, Deepening Faith



RoboJays

The middle school robotics team, the RoboJays, had an excellent season of learning and accomplishment. This year the RoboJays built and programmed new Spike Prime LEGO robots that were purchased using money generously donated by the Lockheed Martin Corporation. At the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) PA Central tournament on February 25, the RoboJays finished 3rd out of 31 teams. This year's competition theme was "Energy". To explore and learn more about energy, the RoboJays visited St. Francis University and were taught by engineering professors through various hands-on experiments. Also, the RoboJays developed an innovative solution to light the historic Stone Bridge in Johnstown with solar panels. Another highlight of the year was when the RoboJays visited other robotic teams that are part of Laurel Highlands Education and Robotics and learned from the FIRST Tech Challenge team, the Robotic Doges, and shared with other teams tips to success in FLL.

~Mr. Eric Yacko, RoboJay Advisor

Team Members: Noelle Lushko, Oriana Yoder, Carter Rudnik, Adam Habecker, Malachi Dean, and Jeremiah Taylor.

Gym Update

The gym project is well underway, with flooring and equipment moves completed. It was determined that the roof needed attention prior to our finishing the next phase involving the insulation and walls. Unfortunately, our roofing contractors have pushed our early summer start date to August, adding a bit of a delay. Thanks to generous donors this project is fully funded and looks to be finished in 2023.

Spring Festival 2023

Festival 2023 was a great success! Vendors returned to the lower parking lot and we continued the live music in the gym. Thank you local worship teams for bringing beautiful music festival day. Kids Korner enjoyed pony rides and a petting zoo along with clowns Razzle and Dazzle and bouncy houses. The auctions had awesome items and our 42nd Spring Festival was a huge success! We are grateful for all who served and for people who gave generously, to make the day the blessing it was.

Save the date! The 43rd Spring Festival will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2024.

~The Festival Committee

Feed the Need

Back for the 4th year this spring was Feed the Need! Students spent five weeks asking for sponsorships to support JCS and our ministry: Engaging Minds, Building Character, Deepening Faith, and Creating Community to Glorify God. The fundraiser concluded with an all-school "Packing Party" on Friday, March 10. 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 The Children's Aid Home Programs of Somerset County, Inc, New Day Ministries, Mark 16 Ministries, and SVDP Family Kitchen.

Our awesome T-Shirt design was created by Samuel Ribaric ('24).



THANK YOU to our Corporate Sponsors

































FINE Arts

MS Drama Club

The Middle School Drama Club presented the skit "The Tale of the Three Trees" at a Johnstown Christian School chapel before Christmas. The story is about three trees on a mountain that dream of what they wanted to become when they grew up. One wants to be a treasure chest, another a boat, and the third a signpost to God. Their wishes come true in a way they never expected. God had a greater purpose and plan for them as He does for each one of us. His ways are always best.

Club Members (left to right): Kloe Harris, Isabella Williams, Aubrielle Lawley, Matthew Boland, Madalyn Green, Ben Hansen, and Keyahno Richardson-Toney.

MS Drama Club Advisor: Mrs. Diana Yoder



District 6 Chorus Festival

Three JCS students represented Johnstown Christian School



at the PMEA Region III Chorus Festival held at Portage High School on January 11-13, 2023. Sybella Mack, Solenna Mack, and Ellie Speigle joined their voices with more than 165 musically talented students from Somerset, Cambria, Blair, & Bedford counties. Mr. Jeffrey L Webb, Associate Professor of Music/Director of Choral Activities and head of the music department at UPJ directed the honor choir. All three girls will

advance to the PMEA Region III Choral Festival.

6th Grade Band Fest

On March 31, Gianna Mallozzi attended the PMEA District 6 Bandfest held at Central Cambria School District. The guest conductor was Benjamin Saylor, an elementary school music teacher in the Indiana Area School District and IUP graduate. The festival consisted of almost 175 students from about 30 different



districts. Students rehearsed 6+ hours during the school day and performed the concert that evening.

District 6 Band Festival



Ellie Speigle represented JCS at this year's District 6 Band Festival. Ellie joined 150 other students from 37 school districts for the 2 1/2 day festival held at Meyersdale School District. The host director was Dr. Gregory Martin who is the Director of Bands and Professor of Music Education at West Chester University. The festival culminated with a wonderful concert Friday night

that included both brand-new and classic concert band repertoire. *Ellie's audition at the festival qualified her for the region band festival in March, but she declined to attend due to an already extremely busy schedule.

PMEA Region 3 Chorus Festival



Three JCS students recently represented Johnstown Christian School at the PMEA Region 3 Chorus Festival held at Clearfield Area High School on February 23-26, 023. Sybella Mack, Solenna Mack, and Ellie Speigle joined their voices with more than 170 musically talented students from 8 counties in PA. Dr. Joy Meade, Director of Choral Music at Messiah University, directed the honor choir.

Art Show 2023

Congratulations to the Best of Show winners!

- -Solenna Mack, High School, painted a beautiful landscape with oil paints in the style of Bob Ross.
- -Zachary Berkebile, Elementary, created a pop art donut with precise Ben-Day dots in artist pen, colored pencil, and marker.
- -Kloe Harris, Middle School, drew graceful-

ly dancing anthropomorphic dogs in colored pencil.



Drama Presentation of *Alice* in Wonderland

"The secret, Alice, is to surround yourself with people who make your heart smile.

It's then, only then, that you'll find Wonderland."

Drama practice, music, choreography, ads, set, costumes, scripts, auction items, programs, decorthe list goes on and on......this is what some will say is what it takes to put a musical together. Yes, it does, but really what it takes is the cast, crew, and musical staff.....and a lot of commitment! This year our drama team did not disappoint! Alice in Wonderland was performed April 20-22, 2023. Although the group was small this year, they took on many character



parts to make the musical a success. Most of this year's cast had never been on the stage before. Hard work and dedication were evident while working with the talented students that we have at JCS.

Alice in Wonderland, an enjoyable story for all ages, has many lessons to be learned. We hope that our audiences took away the importance of looking at and appreciating the differences in others, accepting who we are (in Christ), and that life is an adventure! The drama team is grateful for your support each year! Thanks for another year of JCS drama!!

~ Diana Yoder, Drama Production Manager

Front: Sybella Mack, Mason Dean, Solenna Mack, Clara Harper

2nd Row: Zoey Stanton, Hope Ressler, Arizona Wolfe, Dakota Wilson-Boyles, Austin Safko, Shiloh Swart

3rd row: Anna Lushko, Sara Blough, Unity Miller, Noah Hurt, Eli Williams, Malia Sorg

Choir Tour

The JCS Tour Choir and Handbell Choir enjoyed five days of ministry in May. We shared our music and message, "God Is" reflecting on many of God's most precious attributes. Congregations and communities across Pennsylvania, New York, and West Virginia were encouraged by the music and testimonies that the students shared. We were able to reconnect with JCS Alumni who attended our concerts, renew old friendships, and make new friends along the way. Some of the songs the choirs performed included, "Who Can Satisfy My Soul Like You," "Lord of the Broken," "Moses," and "Worthy to Be Praised". 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 2023 Choir Tour:

"My favorite concert was the first night. This was particularly my favorite because there were many people there and it seemed to be a more interactive crowd. Everyone had smiles on their faces and had many emotions on their faces throughout our program. This impacted me because it reminded me that learning these songs isn't just about a good performance, it's about bringing the chance for the Holy Spirit to speak to all those who attend. Our sincere, honest, and God-focused performances give people the opportunity to reflect on their life and compare it to how God intends for them to be living it out."

~Ally Burkey



"One of the churches we sang at recently went through a depressing time from having many funerals that week. Many of our songs were uplifting to them. I know our singing touched many hearts because, after several of our songs, I heard so many people say Amen."

~Clara Harper

"I was impacted by seeing the way when we sang a song that seemed like repetition to us, others would see it in a whole different way than we did. One of my favorite things is that at every concert you could feel the Holy Spirit's presence in the room."

~Hope Ressler

Thank you, Lord, for a wonderful trip for Your glory!

~Kristen Lloyd, Music Teacher

Band Concert

On May 18, 2023, the Somerset County Community Band joined the band students at JCS for another wonderful evening of music. The evening included music ranging from classic hymns to selections from the Mandalorian. Dan Croft, who started both the Somerset County Community Band and the band program at JCS, was able to attend the concert, conduct multiple pieces as well as share the story of how God moved him toward the creation of both. The evening featured both large and small ensembles of JCS musicians ranging from 4th to 12th grade. All of the students performed won-

derfully and it was great to see their hard work and God-given talent on display.

~Steven Fassnacht, Band Director



Achievements AND Accolades

JCS Speech Meet

Congratulations to the following students who were the top scorers at the Elementary Speech Meet on Friday, March 17, 2023.

1ST GRADE

Mara Knipple - Poetry Tanner Mele - Bible Memory

2ND GRADE

Leightyn Gardner - Poetry Violet Marks - Poetry Grant Greathouse - Fables and Folklore Parks Crissman - Bible Memory

3RD GRADE:

Luca Desrochers - Bible Sean Fassnacht - Fables and Folklore Abigail Lickenfelt - Poetry

4TH GRADE:

Annabelle Brezovic - Fables and Folklore Elise Greathouse - Fables and Folklore Zachary Berkebile - Poetry Elijah Harr - Bible

5TH GRADE

Ella Harr - Poetry Marcus Lushko - Bible Memory Anthony Burkey - Dramatic Bible Prose Ava Giardina -Patriotic Oration

6TH GRADE

Malachi Dean - Patriotic Oration Gianna Mallozzi - Poetry Josie Berkey - Bible Memory

National Spanish Exam

Congratulations to several Spanish students from Johnstown Christian School who attained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2023 National Spanish Examinations.

In 2023, Johnstown Christian School had thirteen students participate in the National Spanish Exam. Students from JCS earned a total of one gold, one bronze, and six honorable mention medals.

GOLD MEDAL: Lydia Hostetter ('25) BRONZE MEDAL: Ella Lushko ('25)

HONORABLE MENTION: Anna Lushko ('24), Sybella Mack ('25), Hope Ressler ('24), Malia Sorg ('24), Lily Werner ('24), and Jaydon Yoder ('24).

"Attaining a medal or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," said Lisa Greenman, National Director of the Exams, "because the exams are the largest of their kind in the United States with over 85000 students participating in 2023."

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. Students from Johnstown Christian School have a long history of high achievement on these exams and were taught by Mrs. Jillian Walker.



Front: Sybella Mack, Jaydon Yoder, Lydia Shaffer

Back: Anna Lushko, Lily Werner, Hope Ressler, Malia

Sorg

*Missing from picture: Ella Lushko

Athletic NEWS

Girls Varsity Basketball

Congratulations to the Girls' Varsity Team who advanced to the ACAA (Allegheny Christian Athletic Association) tournament.

Girls Varsity entered as the #1 seed and were champions of the ACAA West Conference. They finished in 4th place in the competition.



Team: Coach Adkins, Allison Burkey, Lydia Hostetter, Clara Harper, Solenna Mack, Shiloh Swart, Hope Ressler, Ellie Speigle, Unity Miller, Malia Sorg, Olivia Lushko, Sybella Mack, Coach Sprankle and Aaron Viscusi.

Boys Varsity Basketball

The Boys' Varsity team had a good year of growth as they rebuild towards their future.



Team: Jaydon Yoder, Gavin Custer, Sam Ribaric, Elijah Williams, Jacob Taylor, Jeremiah Taylor, Joseph Sorg, Gabe Thomas, and Coach Taylor.

Conference All-Star Team

Congratulations

to Ellie Speigle ('25), Allison Burkey ('24) Jeremiah Taylor ('25) and Unity Miller ('24) who made the Conference All-Star Team. They played in the East-West Classic on February 25, 2023. A shout out to Ms. Adkins who coached the Girls West team.



The gym project is well underway, with flooring and equipment moves completed. It was determined that the roof needed attention prior to our finishing the next phase involving the insulation and walls. Unfortunately, our roofing contractors have pushed our early summer start date to August, adding a bit of a delay. Thanks to generous donors this project is fully funded and looks to be finished in 2023.

Archery

The archery team had another fantastic year. Several students joined and all showed great improvement throughout the season. Congratulations! Looking forward to another good season next year.

Front Row: Amelia Shaffer, Sarah Blough, Allison Burkey, Dakota Wilson-Boyles, Sydnee Sorg, Michaela Hostetter and Isabella Williams

Back Row: Mr. Sprankle, Gavin Hart, Aaron Viscusi, Elijah Williams, Joseph Sorg, Dorin Cook, Thaddeus Held, Shawn Oldaker and Mr. Burkey







Seven students advanced to the state tournament this year. They were Aaron Viscusi ('23), Joey Sorg, ('25), Eli Williams ('24), Sara Blough ('24), Allison Burkey ('24), Amelia Shaffer ('24), and for the first time in many years, we had a middle school student, Thaddeus Held, advance.

Co-Ops

A shout out to the following students who participated in Co-ops with Conemaugh Township:



Jr. High Football

Jonah Harr



Jr. High Volleyball
Isabella Pelesky

Varsity Track and Field

Congratulations to ShaLynn Favor ('26), Lydia Hostetter ('25), Ellie Speigle ('25) and the Girls Varsity Track and Field at CT! They had an undefeated season and won the WestPAC conference.



Lydia Hostetter ('25) and Ellie Speigle ('25) advanced to the District meet at Northern Bedford.

- 2nd Place, 4/400 m Relay Team—Ellie
- 3rd Place, 4/100 m Relay—Ellie
- 3rd Place, 4/800 m Relay—Lydia
- 4th Place, 400 m—Ellie
- 5th Place, Pole Vault—Lydia

Jr. High Track and Field



Front Row: Oriana Yoder, Kierra Holley, Noelle Lushko, and Eliza Shaffer

Back Row: Ben Hansen, Dorin Cook, Elijah Swart,

Lily Lushko, and Avery DiGuardi

*Missing from Picture (Isabella Williams)

Alumni NEWS

Engagements

Darly Baker ('21) engaged to **Alexi McDowell ('21)** on June 18, 2023.

Dillon Dorian engaged to **Maddie Sprankle ('16)** on February 4, 2023.

Jonah Wanko engaged to **Kristi Lynch ('17)** on March 5, 2023.

Births

Derek ('10) and Gabrielle **Dwire** Son, Titus Donald, on January 15, 2023.

Nathan ('13) and Cassie Defibaugh Son, Oliver Jack, on February 4, 2023.

Caleb and Lindsay (Najjar) ('13) Van Grouw Son, Asa Roman, on April 21, 2023.

Andrew and **Anna (Eshleman) ('19)** Crawford Daughter, Avery Morgan, on April 2, 2023.

Marty and Alicia (Marks) ('06) Prokop Daughter, Adalyn Leah, on May 22, 2023.

Kyle ('07) and Sarah **Scheffel**Daughter, Naomi Josephine, February 17, 2023.

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.

Please call 814-288-2588 or email kmack@jcsfamily.org with alumni news.

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 Memory of

DOROTHY (DOT) MAURER

Anonymous

In Memory of GRACE YODER

Anonymous Richard and Wendy Ames Christina Rubal Geral and Marylou Oswald

Updates

Lorna Speigle ('19) advanced to Outdoor State Track and Field Championship held at Slippery Rock in May. She competed in seven events, placing 1st in the 200m at 25.63 seconds and 1st in the 800m at 2.25 seconds. Lorna also took 4th in the women's hep-



tathlon and 6th in the 4/400 relay. Awesome Job, Lorna!



Mary Hostetter ('22) qualified and competed at the NCCAA National Meet in South Carolina for Asbury University. Mary competed in the 100m, 200m, 400m and set 3 personal records for Asbury. Way to go Mary!

Reubon ('90) and Cherie Ream Yoder became grandparents on March 19, 2023 to Sadie Elizabeth Frick. Reubon's daughter is Karissa Yoder married to Ben Frick. Great Grandparents, Rich and Diane (Hostetler) Yoder both graduated in 1969.

Johnstown Christian School



HOW DO I NAME JCS IN MY WILL OR ESTATE PIAN?

JCS is a 501(c) (3) non -profit. Our ministry is identified as: Johnstown Christian School 125 Christian School Rd, Hollsopple, PA

Federal Tax ID: 25-1005200

Deepening Faith & Creating Community to Glorify God

Engaging Minds Building Character

Thank you for considering a gift in your estate plan for ICS. Including ICS in your future plans leaves a legacy that will bless our ministry for generations to come.

WHY IS AN ESTATE PLAN

An estate plan ensures your desires and values are honored and that your assets will go to the people and organizations you select.

A gift that utilizes charitable planning strategies to maximize your charitable impact and achieve your personal planning

HOW CAN I SUPPORT JCS

You can name JCS as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan, insurance policy, bank accounts, and/or establish an Endowment fund. These future gifts are changeable during your lifetime.

WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

A fund that is invested permanently, and part of the income is spent annually to support the ministry; the fund grows over time and provides financial stability to the ministry.

If you have any questions about this type of giving or wish to talk about your desire to give, please contact our Business Manager, Ms. Amy McDowell (814) 288.2588 or amcdowell@jcsfamily.org



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YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

EACH ONE IS A PART OF IT

1 Corinthians 12:27

Engaging Minds, Building Character, Deepening Faith & Creating Community to Glorify God

