

# JAMES MADISON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

*From the Desk of Mr. Duggan.....December 2010*

## CARING

As we move into the month of December, we will continue our "Character Counts" program with the focus on "Caring." Numerous school-wide and classroom activities will take place this month which focus on issues pertaining to "Caring." This will also include activities related to PBSIS – Positive Behavior Support in Schools.

## NOVEMBER RECAP

Considering it was a relatively short month, November was packed full of events here at JMI, thanks to our PTO and staff.

On November 10, many parents came to visit our classrooms for American Education Day. It was wonderful to see the strong turnout and get positive feedback from our parents.

For Veterans Day, we had the pleasure of having Mr. Erceg, Mr. Gorman and Mr. Witt share their experiences about serving in the military. Mr. Erceg is a WW II Navy Veteran, Mr. Gorman served in the army during WW II and was part of the D-Day invasion, and Mr. Witt served in the Marines in Vietnam. They were able to speak with our fifth grade students about the importance of volunteerism and service. Their stories inspired us all.

Our PTO held its Scholastic Book Fair November 17–18, and students and staff were very excited to see some of the anticipated newly released books from some of their favorite authors. Thank you to our parent volunteers and special thanks to Heather Galster, Michelle Cervelli, Vijaya Turimella, and Aparna Merchant, for coordinating the book fair. They did an amazing job!

We also had our Thanksgiving Feast for both FDR and JMI on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. I would like to thank our parent volunteers, PTO members, and a special thanks to Maureen Sattan (our feast coordinator) for making it all happen. The students had a fabulous time celebrating this great Holiday.

Conferences also took place in the month of November. I must say I was overwhelmed with the positive feedback from all of our parents. I had the chance to speak with many parents who shared with me so many exciting and positive stories about how much their children enjoy this school and their teachers. The parents and teachers have worked very hard together to make JMI a great place to learn and grow.

The used clothing drive was a big success. I would like to thank Wendy Kushner for organizing the event, and I would like to thank all of our parents for donating so many items.

## "LUNCH WITH THE PRINCIPAL" PROGRAM

This program is designed to help recognize our most noteworthy students. I really enjoy spending time with our students and having an opportunity to speak with them in such a positive setting. The students who were selected to participate in the program are students who are performing well academically and exemplify the type of behavior extolled in our Character Counts and PBSIS programs. Each month every homeroom teacher will recommend one student from his/her class to have a pizza lunch with the principal. November's students were: Minna Alkayat, Albert Ang, Jusleen Basra, Suraj Chandran, Sahil Desai, Rebecca Fang, Noah Heupel, Ninad Kasala, Hunter MacMahon, Sohil Malik, Phoebe Mao, Paige Nguyen, Riya Nigam, Samuel Pak, Atharva Patil, Andrew Pei, Neel Prabhu, Michelle Ran, Michael Ryvin, Marisa Shinal, Eric Song, Dean Tan, Zoe Wang, Andrew Yan, and Alexander Zhou. I look forward to spending time with the December students of the month.

DECEMBER 1	Report Cards go home
DECEMBER 7	Staff In-Service – 1:30 PM Dismissal
DECEMBER 13–16	Operation Cares
DECEMBER 15–17	Holiday Boutique
DECEMBER 17	Lunch with the Principal
DECEMBER 21	JMI Winter Concert – for students only
DECEMBER 23	Holiday Parties
DECEMBER 24 –	Winter Recess –
JANUARY 2	NO SCHOOL
JANUARY 4	School re-opens

## REMINDERS...

School begins at 8:55 AM. Please make every effort to be on time. Please be mindful of appropriate parking lot procedures during drop-off and pick-up times.

I hope everyone has a great Winter Recess and is able to spend some quality time with their families. **WISHING YOU AND YOURS A SAFE, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

"Peace is not something you wish for; it's something you do, something you are, and something you give away."

~Robert Fulghum