



THE LANCER MESSENGER

THE STUDENT NEWS
JAMES W. PARKER
MIDDLE SCHOOL

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TO SEE THE MESSENGER IN COLOR...Go to 

New Teachers

by Zane, Kieran, Lilah, Abbey, & Kaitlyn

A new school year has started, bringing with it a host of new things: new clothes, new tools, new classes, and the people who teach those classes. Of course, I'm talking about new teachers. To get to know them a little better, we asked each teacher to tell us a little about themselves, how their year is going so far, and what their favorite ice cream is. Here's what they said:



Kelly Allen
Guidance
Counselor

I am loving this school year so far - it has been going super well. The JWPMS students are rocking and rolling, our staff is great and there is truly nothing negative for me to say! My favorite ice cream flavor is cookie dough!

I am SO excited to be at Parker this year! My year has been going amazing :). My favorite ice cream flavor is anything chocolate- the more chocolate the better haha! This is my fourth year teaching. I taught Life Skills Support in the Erie School District for three years before coming here. I also have a guinea pig named Midnight and a puppy named Sullivan, and I just got married this summer!

Elise Keinath
5th Grade

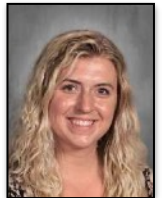


Nate Meyers
7th/8th Grade

My school year is going great so far, I love being at GM! My Favorite color is purple, and my favorite ice cream flavor is cookies and cream.

Over the summer I got to sing in a church in Canterbury, England that was built before the year 500! The school year is going so well! These Parker middle school kids are SUPER talented! My favorite ice cream flavor? This is a hard one! I'll have to pick chocolate chip cookie dough (with chocolate ice cream of course!)

Julya Polaski
Chorus/Music



Katie DeSanto
6th Grade
Math

Both my husband and I are GM graduates. Prior to teaching at JWPMS, I taught for 14 years at Corry Area School District (mostly in 5th grade). I have three boys! Brycen is a 5th grader at Parker, and Liam and Miles attend McKean Elementary. My family allows me to have pet chickens, quails, ducks, and a couple cute boxer pups. I love animals, teaching, and all the outdoor activities with my kids. So far, the year is going great thanks to the help of my AMAZING 6th graders and 6th grade teaching team! My favorite ice cream is a chocolate ice cream flurry with EXTRA cookie dough and oreo!

We thank everyone for joining our school and filling the shoes of our teachers that have left or retired last year. We hope that these amazing new teachers have a wonderful time with us at JWPMS and create everlasting memories!

THE LANCER MESSENGER

Editorial Policy

Our mission is to provide a form of media, in print and online, that represents all aspects of student life. Its purpose is to present news concerning Parker Middle School as well as to provide a forum for student opinion.

It is the desire of the staff to reach every student and tell as many of their stories as possible. We invite you to share your voice with us (500 word max). The Lancer Messenger will print as many student submissions as space will allow, but also reserves the right to not print a submission. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.

We reserve the right to edit for clarity, brevity, accuracy, spelling and grammar. All submissions are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy, and disruption of the school process, as are the contents of this paper.

Email scotthutchison@generalmcclane.org

*Opinions are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in this public forum be construed as the opinion or policy of the General McLane School Board, administration, or faculty, unless so attributed.

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Advisor

Hutch

From Page to Stage

by Lancer Messenger Staff

JWPMS is set to enchant audiences with their production of Disney's "Little Mermaid Jr." With colorful costumes, catchy tunes, and a wave of youthful energy, this production promises to be a delightful experience for audiences of all ages. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this magical journey beneath the sea, showcasing your singing and acting skills in this beloved Disney classic. Adding an extra layer of excitement is our new director, Julya Polaski, who is set to bring her unique vision and leadership to our cast of performers. We're eagerly anticipating the creative magic she'll instill in this production and can't wait to see which talented group of young actors will amaze us on stage.



GM United Soccer

by Jackson Continenza



The crisp autumn air is filled with the sound of leaves crunching under athletes shoes, the smell of freshly cut grass and whistles blowing here and there. Goal scoring, dirt flying, parents cheering. This is the start of an exciting fall sports season.

Let's get started up with the fall season with GM United Soccer! Sign-ups recently closed, but you can email gmunitedsoccer@gmail.com to see if there are any available spots open. The teams are broken into 5-6th and 7-8th grades.

Our amazing coaching staff, spotlighting Brittany Hardik (5/6 & 7/8 Girls), Logan McFadden (5/6 & 7/8 Boys), Josh Hopkins (7/8 Girls), and Dan

Young (7/8 Boys), is dedicated to an amazing season with these players.

In the 5th-6th grade category, I asked around to find out which players are thought to be top scorers this season. Aiden, Ridgely, Caden, Mason, Sam, Audra, Olivia, Sophia, and Nylah are all expected to shine, but I hope to be a top scorer too.

For the 7th-8th grade team, keep an eye on Bowen Rock, Baya, Liv, Grace, or myself as potential top scorers. Our skills and shooting pull us apart from the rest of the team. Aviana, Lauren, and the Weber girls also had huge shout outs from their teammates.

We all hope the teams have a successful season this year.





Passion, Grit, and Glory

by Caleb Stafford, Jayce Steffey, Jackson Cherry, Quintin LeSuer

This season, our fifth and sixth grade Lancer football team had an outstanding performance with an undefeated record, beating Millcreek for the championship! Jack and Winston both have consistently great runs, while Caleb is a dog in the back-field with reliable, big plays. Mason tackles like a beast, while Colt Williams flies down-field for 60-yard touchdowns.

The 7th and 8th grade football team had a great season. Star players Graedy Sharp, Gabe Montroy, Charlie Bennett, and

Seth Mulligan have notably shined according to their teammates and anyone else watching. Meanwhile, Marcus Geiser and Jack Hromyak have consistently put in the effort to excel in their roles.

We are so proud of our teams and look forward to see how they continue to grow throughout the rest of middle and high school.



GO DIGITAL!

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lancermessenger.com



If 13 and older...

You and your family can follow us on Instagram for instant student news:
[@lancer_messenger](https://www.instagram.com/lancer_messenger)

The Battle of the Best Gym Teacher

by Jayce Steffey, Jackson Continenza, Quintin LeSuer, Jacob Williams

At JWPMS, there are three main gym teachers, but there is a lot of controversy over which one is the best.

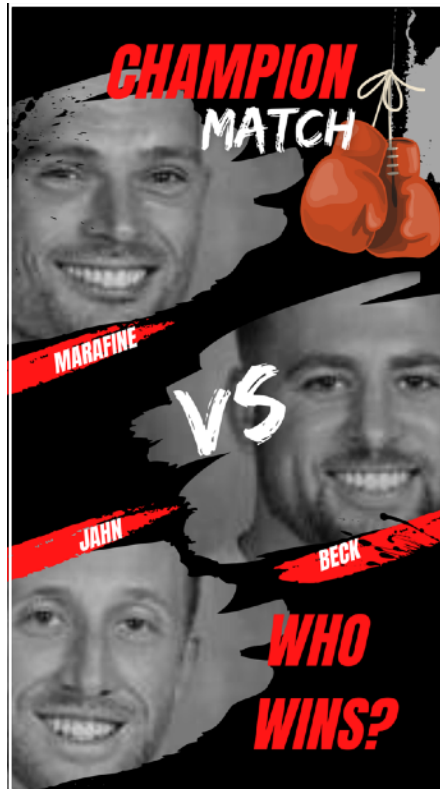
Mr. Jahn is one of the three physical education teachers at Parker Middle School. A survey we conducted to determine the best gym teacher revealed that many students at the school enjoy having Mr. Jahn as their gym teacher because he tells really fun jokes and has hysterical nicknames for people. A 5th grader named Easton said, "Mr. Jahn is the best teacher because he makes funny nicknames and makes the games fun by playing with us." Kaelyn, a 6th grader, added, "Mr. Jahn is the best because he is nice, jokes around, doesn't get mad often, and calls me a funny name."

However, many students would argue that Mr. Beck is the best gym teacher because of his collection of witty jokes and the entertaining activities that all his classes highly enjoy. One of his fifth-grade students mentioned, "He creates great relationships with the kids." Another student, Gabe Montroy from eighth grade, stated, "He is very laid back and can take jokes."

Finally, a significant number of students would choose Mr. Marafine because of his relaxed approach to teaching gym. One

thing that stood out to me was how many students said that when he plays football with the class, he throws dimes to the runners. Mr. Marafine is known for making class enjoyable and engaging for his students. He also fosters a fun and supportive learning environment for his students. After reviewing all the responses, some notable comments include Ava Williams saying, "He makes class fun and genuinely cares." Another standout comment came from Seth Mulligan, who said, "He's the best at football." While many students might choose Mr. Marafine over the other two, these are the comments that stood out the most.

In conclusion, these three gym teachers are neck and neck in terms of the number of students who like them. It appears that the debate over the "Best Gym Teacher" will have to continue, or we can simply appreciate the fact that we are lucky to have three amazing teachers spending time with us in Gym and Health.



Extreme Locker Makeover

by Lancer Messenger Staff

Everybody goes to school in the morning and goes to the same old place every single day: the same boring metal box with rusted tops and busted bottoms; the lockers. Some people leave them as they are, while others decorate them with stickers to make them look prettier. But for some, it's an opportunity to go all out and personalize these once-boring lockers so it's just their style.

7th grader, Rylie Chernicky is one of those people who chose to transform her space. She

explains that she decorates her locker because it helps her have a positive mood each morning when she looks at it. It makes it more homey.

If you want your locker tricked out, send an email to scotthutchison@generalmclane.org with your reason why you need a locker makeover along with a list of things you would like in your locker. The Lancer Messenger Staff will choose one lucky winner to get a Locker Makeover. Have your email in by October 27th.





Unlock Your Brain's Superpower

How Youth Can Mold Their Minds to Success

by Jay Ramey

Did you know that, assuming you are in an age range between 10 and 18, you possess a significant advantage over those who are older than you? It's your brain! Now, I'm not saying you are smarter than your elders; I'm simply pointing out a neurological advantage you have over them. You have a super-powered ability to learn.

Think of a brain as wet clay. When you are in this age range, your clay is moldable, and as you grow older, it becomes firmer and firmer. In that sense, when you are young, you can mold your brain to be anything you want it to be. All it takes to mold your brain is practice—day in and day out practice.

However, you can also mold yourself to develop bad habits.

If you indulge in bad habits every day, your brain will begin to accept them as normal. It is just as important to eliminate these habits as it is to cultivate good ones.

With all of this, you might ask, "What are these good habits?" Well, I hope you already know most of them: brushing your teeth, eating healthily, staying active, and doing your homework. Sure, you should be doing all of these, but I want to discuss other beneficial habits. Learning a specific and unique skill, and if you are already doing that, learn another one. Some new skills are obvious, like music lessons, dance, and gymnastics, but you don't need formal lessons to acquire new skills. Between YouTube tutori-

als and simply searching "how to do something," we have the tools we need to learn. Draw every day, play chess online, or delve deeper into subjects you have already studied in school. Get involved in school extracurricular activities and enjoy yourself while doing so. You have so many options, and all you need to learn these skills is a determined spirit and a willingness to practice as much as you can.

Starting something new may be challenging, but once you are older and your clay has begun to dry, you will thank yourself for the hard work you put in when you had this superpower. So here is my challenge to you: if you are not already doing so, spend three hours a week practicing a cou-

ple of specialties (and ideally increase that to five over time) that you want to learn. When you look back in a year, I imagine you will be proud of yourself.

SOURCES:

Erkic, A. (2017, January 16). You Only Need 5 Hours A Week To Be Successful (With This Learning Approach). Lifehack. <https://www.lifehack.org/523154/you-only-need-5-hours-a-week-to-be-successful-with-this-learning-approach>
Why do children learn more quickly than adults? new study offers clues. Brown University. (2023, September 13). <https://www.brown.edu/news/2022-11-15/children-learning>

Middle School Trend Setters

by Kaitlyn Androstic, Abbey Lawson, Lilah Dylewski

Every year, there's always a new trend that everyone follows. You constantly see advertisements for the latest clothing that everyone is wearing, but when you look in your closet, you find nothing similar. Trends come and go, and some people devote their entire summer to shopping for the heavily advertised new clothes of the season. However, a popular trend from last year may not even resemble the one going around now. Let's take a look at what our Parker Middle School students believe are the current trends this school year.

For the girls in grades 5th to 8th, there were many similarities between the grades. In 5th grade, we interviewed Stella Gee

and Brylie Brumagin. In 6th grade, we interviewed Olivia Ponsoll and Kolby Karotko. In 7th grade, we spoke with Ava Marino and Kaylie Clark, and finally, in 8th grade, our interviews were with Aubrey Sturgis and Quinn Huffine. For boys, our interviews included Josh Peirce, Isaiah Santos, Gavin Iaquina, Winston Gast, Lucas Tobin, Tyler Quirk, and in the eighth grade, we interviewed Elliott Gruber. This is the data we collected.



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Middle School Trend Setters

Continued from Page 5

THE BOYS



Shirts:
Graphic T's
Sweatshirts
Football Jerseys
Hoodies

Pants:
Sweatpants
Jeans
Mid-thigh Shorts

Shoes:
Jordans
Nike
Crocs
270s AirForce 1

Brands:
Under Armor
Adidas
Nike
Carhartt Reebok
Old Navy Kohls

Colors:
Red
Green
Black
Blue
White

Random Trends:
Nike Socks
Dry Fit
Jibbitz
Bright Color Clothes

THE GIRLS



Shirts:
Baggy Sweatshirts
GM Spirit Wear
Crewnecks

Shoes:
Converse Hey Dudes Birkenstocks
Jordans Air Forces
Crocs Nike 270s
Blazers Sandals

Brands:
Nike
Aéropostale
Lululemon
American Eagle
Kendra Scott

Random Trends:
Lululemon Belt Bags
Stud Earrings Gold Jewelry
Kendra Scott Necklaces
White Nails
Fake Nails Nike Socks

Pants:
Yoga Pants
Athletic Shorts
Black Leggings
Baggy Jeans

Student Council

The purpose of the student council is to provide representation for each grade-level and to be a voice for the student body. Mrs. Amanda Vickey is the student council advisor. These students were chosen by PBIS team at our school. The 8th graders are also part of the 8th Grade Advisory Committee, run by Ms. Kelly Allen.

5th Grade Representatives

Brinley Kaliszewski & Josh Peirce



6th Grade Representatives

Emma Haugh & Caleb Stafford



7th Grade Representatives

Jay Ramey & Lilly Bechtel



8th Grade Representatives

Sonny Washburn & Katie Cousins





Rolling Out the Issues

The Lowdown on Lousy Toilet Paper

by Jake Williams

Let's face it, we all know that feeling: you had Taco Bell the night before, and Mount Vesuvius is going to look like a science experiment in comparison to what is to come. As soon as your teacher grants you a pass, you sprint through the halls to reach the restroom. You run to the stalls, open the doors, and hear a noise as your shoe steps into something: Splish! You give a dreaded look to the floor. What was that? You see what's left of a pile of yellow toilet paper scraps around your white

shoes. You wish you had tied the laces beforehand because now your shoes and laces are more like off-whites. You manage to hold down the vomit growing in your throat and quickly wrap the lid of your porcelain throne a few times, making a crow's nest. After your business is done, you look over to the dispenser and see the yellow tiles through the ready-to-grab 'toilet paper' that looks and feels more like murky glass shards. You accept your fate and reach for it, but it

doesn't come out; it just tears. You try again and again, but it just won't come out. Why couldn't they have spent a little more to get decent TP? Well, it turns out they might be able to. When you're forced to face the unfortunate fate of using school one-ply, wouldn't you say that you fold it a few times for one square of TP to make it less like sandpaper and to keep your hand from a stinky fate? Well, it turns out that the average person in our class makes it 4 layers thick! According to

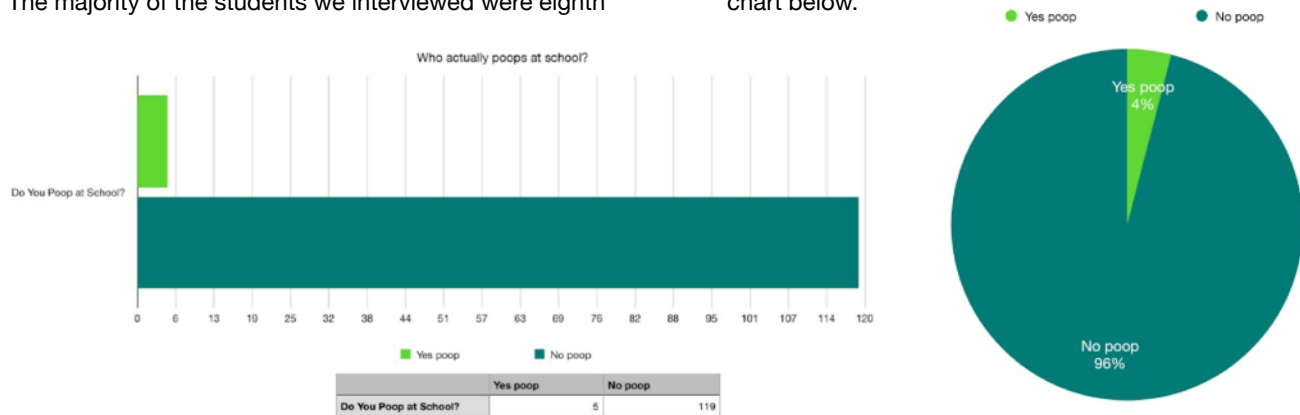
some bulk school supply websites, the best toilet paper, or premium-quality toilet paper, is only three times more expensive. That means it would make more sense for the school to buy premium quality rather than students wasting TP with their quadruple layers of the cheap stuff. In general, it makes more sense for the school to buy toilet paper rather than sandpaper, ultimately contributing to the happiness and comfort of the students.

Who Poops at School?

by Marlee Johnson, Asher Kirk, Kieran Ickes, Jake Williams, and Zane Simpson

Plop! Plop! You're sitting on the toilet, exerting all your effort, and finally, your poop comes out of your butt at over 100 mph. You reach for the toilet paper, and then you hear the menacing screech of the dispenser. As you do, you hear the footsteps of another person entering the bathroom. You freeze, hoping they didn't hear the embarrassing sound you just produced. This vision made us wonder how many people even poop at school. The majority of the students we interviewed were eighth

graders, because we felt they had the most experience in the school. We interviewed the eighth graders during their lunch period to get the most information put together as possible. We also interviewed fifth and sixth graders, but they had very similar answers. Despite the majority saying refusing to poop at school, a few students said that they would and have before. We've collected a large amount of data, which is shown in the chart below.



Parker Podcasts

By Lancer Messenger Staff

Hey there, fellow middle schoolers! Have you ever heard of a podcast? Well, here at Parker Middle School, we've got something cool and creative called the "Parker Podcast," and it's made by some awesome 6th-grade students and others who have an interest in sharing their thoughts and ideas with the world. But you might be wondering, what exactly is a podcast?

A podcast is like an online radio show that you can listen to anytime you want. It's a bit like tuning in to your favorite program, except you can choose when and where to listen. Our very own Parker

Podcast is recorded in the Podcast studio, which is located in Room 704, right in Hutch's robotics room. Our students use special podcasting equipment to create their episodes, and before they hit that record button, they carefully plan out their episodes using a Podcasting template. This means they decide who's going to be in the podcast, what topic they'll discuss, and the questions or prompts they'll use to keep the conversation flowing smoothly.

Now, you might be wondering, "Where can I listen to the Parker Podcast?" Well, it's super easy! You can find it on

lancermessenger.com, or you can tune in on popular platforms like Apple Music or Spotify. Our podcast covers a wide range of topics, from hilarious episodes on Dad Jokes to insightful discussions about Middle School Relationships, and even conversations about the start and end of the school year. So, whether you're looking for a good laugh or some helpful advice, the Parker Podcast has something for everyone. Tune in and join the fun!



Discover the World of Silly Facts

By Lancer Messenger Staff

Middle school is all about learning, exploring, and having fun, right? Well, why not add a bit of silliness to your day with these wacky and weird facts? Here are some random, but absolutely silly tidbits to tickle your funny bone:

Banana Fact: Bananas are berries, but strawberries aren't! How's that for a fruit twist?

Octopus Brainpower: Octopuses have three hearts. Two pump blood to the gills, and one to the rest of the body. Talk about a multi-tasking organ!

Incredible Elephants: Elephants are the only mammals that

can't jump. Don't challenge them to a hopping contest!

Marsupial Madness: Kangaroos can't hop backward. They're strictly forward thinkers.

Unsinkable Ducks: Ducks can float in icy water without freezing because their feet have no nerves or blood vessels. Quackers, right?

Longest Word: The longest word in the English language without a vowel is "rhythms." It's quite a mouthful!

Moonwalking Goat: Goats have rectangular pupils in their eyes. They're like the Michael

Jacksons of the animal kingdom.

Cows and Compasses: Cows tend to face north or south while eating. Perhaps they're trying to find their way to the nearest pasture?

Penguin Proposal: Male penguins propose to their female counterparts by offering a pebble. It's like a penguin's version of a diamond ring!

Butterfly Taste Buds: Butterflies can taste with their feet. If they like where they land, they might stick around!

Slinky Secrets: The Slinky was invented by accident when an

engineer was trying to create springs for battleships. Now it's a classic toy.

Jellyfish Glow: Jellyfish are 95% water and they don't have a brain. Yet some of them can glow in the dark. It's a brainless, luminous party!

Silly facts like these are not only amusing but also a great conversation starter. Who knows, maybe you'll be the life of the party with your knowledge of these quirky tidbits. So, remember, learning can be fun and filled with laughter – just like these silly facts!