Excellence of programs requires revenue

Our number one goal at Jamesville-DeWitt continues to be a quality education for every student, using our finite resources prudently to ensure a comprehensive program at every level. The process of attaining this goal continues to challenge us as the state places more demands on schools, while limiting resources to meet those demands. Over the past few years we have reduced non-instructional staff and limited non-instructional spending wherever we could to drive resources into the instructional program. We have made modifications in instructional programs and staffing, reducing the budget in areas that we thought would have the least negative impact. We have done this while the state has placed significant new demands on districts with new standards in several disciplines necessitating new curriculum, and new mandates requiring additional resources, such as a complete overhaul of the system used to evaluate teachers, not once, but three times. As in any business, overhead costs continue to rise.

Over the last several years we saw a significant dip in state aid as the state went through a fiscal crisis. In 2010-11, in the midst of the fiscal crisis, the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) was enacted to reduce state aid to schools, helping the state close its revenue gap while at the same time, creating a revenue gap for local school districts. At J-D, we have had over $7.5 million in state aid withheld through the GEA adjustment. The governor’s proposed state aid allocation for 2016-17 continues to withhold state aid as part of the gap elimination when the state no longer has a revenue gap, but rather a budget surplus. The governor has proposed withholding an additional $414,000 from J-D for the coming year.

That loss again creates a gap for us to eliminate by either reducing expenses or increasing revenue. The other major source of revenue for school districts is the local tax levy. In recent years the state has enacted a school district property tax cap. It is commonly referred to as “2 percent tax cap,” but when all is said and done, for the 2016-17 budget, J-D’s tax cap is zero. The district will not be able to increase the tax levy at all without the approval of a super majority (60%) of the voters. Exceeding the tax cap will also preclude local... Continued on page 2

In This Issue:

- Scholastic Art shines, including this top Rebecca Shen drawing, page 4
- Musicals (like the Middle School’s Aladdin) typify arts programs, more MS news, page 4
- Chromebooks (like these at Moses) power 21st-century learning more elementary school news, page 5

During this difficult budget season, we need your help to ensure all 21st-century learning options are open to students. Here, Tecumseh pupils combine an interactive white board, PowerPoint and public speaking to give presentations to their own parents.
Long-term loss of state aid backs district into fiscal corner

Water damages several classrooms and other facilities inside high school

Kindergarten registration underway for 2016-17 school year

Transportation requests for non-public schools due April 1
Future depends on maintaining excellent programs for students

Students, parents to see immediate impact of major changes made to State testing for grades 3-8, for 2016

Each year, the Grade 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests are administered to students in New York State. There are some major changes that the State Education Department has made to these tests for 2016. Commissioner MaryEllen Elia assumed the leadership role of the Department last July and immediately began gathering information from educators, parents, board of education members, students and members of communities across the state regarding ways to improve the tests.

These tests are mandated by federal law, so eliminating these tests is not an option. It is also mandated by the federal government that a minimum of 95% of students must take these tests. States are left to enforce these provisions. The federal government has threatened to sanction states that do not have 95% of their students take these tests. The sanction could include withholding of federal funds for general education students under Title I, which for Jamesville-Dewitt is in excess of $270,000.

The following changes have been made to these tests which will be administered this spring:

- The number of test questions has been decreased on all tests. The number of reading passages has been reduced on the English Language Arts tests.
- The tests will be untimed, giving students more opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by allowing them to work at their own pace.
- The State has increased the number of NY teachers involved in creating and reviewing assessments and has contracted with a new test vendor to improve the quality of the tests.
- These assessments will not be used as part of the official evaluation process for teachers.

We are pleased the State has listened to the concerns expressed across the state about these tests and is taking action to make positive changes in a timely manner. These tests do provide helpful information that is used to make changes in programs and curriculum as necessary. We hope all of our students will benefit from these improvements.

I am so proud of our J-D students. When you enter our schools, you see and hear students and staff engaged in the process of learning; learning the basics that include reading, writing, speaking, and listening; developing a continuum of complex math skills and logical ways of thinking; exploring a multitude of science concepts with a truly hands-on approach at every level; surveying and analyzing the increasingly complex world we live in through studying social studies, government, and economics. Beyond the traditional basics, you will see and hear students hard at work on the modern basics of acquiring the skills to be technologically literate, to be effective problem-solvers, and proficient in communication within an increasingly more complex, global society. In the high school you will observe a significant number of students achieving excellence in a large variety of college-level courses. They are definitely graduating college and career ready. Most importantly, you will feel the energy and excitement the process engenders, motivating our students to be life-long learners.

The arts continue to be an integral part of our educational program. You can see and hear the amazing results of those efforts in every building. The performances and art shows are truly inspiring. Our student athletes of all ages work tirelessly to be the best they can be in the event(s) of their choosing, and their best is recognized by the section and the state in a remarkable number and variety of events.

With the ongoing fiscal challenges we face, it is our sincere hope to maintain these quality programs for all of our students. To do so, we will continue to conserve dollars by minimizing discretionary spending and non-instructional expenditures wherever possible, in order to maintain as much instructional program as we can. This becomes extremely challenging when the exceedingly complicated “2% tax cap” enacted by the state legislature results in a zero percent cap for some districts, including J-D. Any increase in the state levy should be required by voters who are aware of the constraints we face. We hope you will continue to support their education. Our future depends upon it.
At the J-D Journal

Middle School

Successes in Languages, Model UN and Math add up

The Jamesville-DeWitt National Spanish, French and Chinese Honor Societies inducted students into their respective societies, demonstrating the J-DHS commitment to language education. In all, 41 students were inducted for Spanish, 15 for French, and 11 for Chinese. Eight students received recognition as dual-language inductees.

Meanwhile, the J-DHS Math Team, advised by math teachers Mike Kl- emper and Mike Daly, totaled up another impressive season, with six students qualifying for the State Math Meet.

Finally, the Model United Nations squad continues to compete across the state. The group, advised by social studies teachers Donna Oppedissano and Jamie Crawford, netted Outstanding Delegate Awards at the Manlius Pebble Hill competition, and 17 awards at the Hilton High School competition in Rochester.

At the High School

Students sketch out Scholastic Art attack

Results of the 2016 M&T Bank Scholastic Art Exhibition indicate that Jamesville-DeWitt High School students received numerous awards in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and photography.

Students receiving the highest awards were invited to the show opening and awards ceremony held at the Whitney Applied Technology Center at Onondaga Community College. The major awards included:
- John D. Barrow Art Gallery Awards (Best Portrait): Rebecca Shen (drawing)
- Light Work Award/Best Photography Portfolio: Maggie Mannion
- Onondaga Community College Award/Best Fine Arts Portfolio: Rebecca Shen
- Fine Arts Portfolio Gold Key Awards: Jack Davis, Emily Maar, Maggie Mannion, Rebecca Shen

Written, spoken-word feats take spotlight

At the Empire State School Press Association Fall Conference at Syracuse University, the professional panel of judges recognized our student journalists’ 2014-15 efforts with 21 awards, including six first-place Gold plaques. Once again, the RamPage continues to be recognized and admired among the hundreds of student publications across New York State. At the same conference at SU, Rambunctious, the J-DHS magazine for student art and writing, received 11 awards, including a Gold plaque for Best All-Round Literary Magazine and a Silver plaque for Cover Design. Digital copies of the magazine can be viewed at the high school web page.

Meanwhile, the spoken word also gets its due. In the school competition for the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest, senior Anna Pluff received first place while junior Melissa Gao took second.

Learning speaks many tongues

At the middle school, students are learning French, Spanish, and Chinese, among other languages. The J-DHS magazine, RamPage, features student art and writing, and is available online. Additionally, the J-DHS Math Team has had a successful year, with six students qualifying for the State Math Meet.

Fine Arts Portfolio Honorable Mention Awards: Emily Firman, Riley Jeannetta

American Vision Awards/Best of Show:
- Jack Davis (drawing - “Jars,” upper right)
- Emily Maar (drawing - “Blue Self-Portrait”)
- Rebecca Shen (drawing - “Oceans Eyes,” see page 1)

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- Rebecca Shen (drawing - “Oceans Eyes,” see page 1)
Taking H.E.R.O.ic measures for character education

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS - H.E.R.O. is a new character education program at Jamesville focusing on respect, responsibility, generosity, gratitude, courage, commitment, cooperation and citizenship. Students are recognized individually for their H.E.R.O. accomplishments and join in recognition activities, a read-a-thon and five assemblies as part of the program this year. This student-created poster recognizes the H.E.R.O.ic efforts of our dedicated bus drivers.

MANY VOICES IN UNISON - The fourth-grade concert is a staple of the school year as dozens of young voices blend with instrumentation -- seasoned by months of preparation -- to make a joyful noise for the entire school community.

All is fair in loving and celebrating diversity

TOGETHER, WE ARE ONE - The third-grade multicultural performance celebrated diversity in all of its forms, both within the school community and without.

STANDARDS-BASED PLANNING AND INSTRUCTION - Elementary staff continue to work hard to plan and implement lessons that support students as they rise to meet the challenges of the increased rigor of the Common Core Learning Standards in ELA and Math, and beyond.

Flag Day Parade a grand ol’, high-flying tradition

STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER - Tecumseh students are no strangers to musical performances of all stripes. But there is nothing quite like the fun of the Flag Day Parade, a red, white and blue tradition unlike any other at the elementary school.

OF HANBOKS, SARIS, AND MORE - Students in the English as a New Language program recently shared home traditions and dress with classmates, resulting in a powerful (and colorful) learning opportunity.
**SPRING VARSITY SPORTS CALENDAR**

**BOYS’ LACROSSE**
- 4/5 MARCELLUS (NL) H 7:00
- 4/7 FULTON A 7:00
- 4/9 FAIRPORT (NL) A 7:00
- 4/12 WESTHILL (NL) A 7:00
- 4/14 CORTLAND H 7:00
- 4/19 CBA (NL) H 7:00
- 4/21 CHITTENANGO A 4:30
- 4/26 SKANEATELES (NL) A 7:30
- 5/2 ESM H 7:00
- 5/3 W GENESEE H 7:00
- 5/5 CAZENOVIA (NL) H 7:00
- 5/7 C SQUARE H 7:00
- 5/10 LAFAYETTE (NL) A 4:30
- 5/13 HOMER A 5:00

**GIRLS’ LACROSSE**
- 4/1 FOWLER @ Corcoran A 6:30
- 4/7 MEXICO @ MS A 7:00
- 4/12 CORTLAND H 7:00
- 4/14 CHITTENANGO A 7:00
- 4/16 FULTON A 12:30
- 4/18 HOMER H 7:00
- 4/21 C SQUARE A 4:30
- 4/23 AUBURN H 1:00
- 4/26 CBA H 7:00
- 4/29 OSWEGO H 7:00
- 5/2 LAFAYETTE (NL) H 7:00
- 5/4 CAZENOVIA (NL) H 7:00
- 5/7 FM H 2:00
- 5/10 WESTHILL (NL) A 6:30
- 5/17 MARCELLUS H 7:00

**GIRLS’ GOLF**
- 4/12 ESM H 3:30
- 4/13 SKANEATELES A 3:30
- 4/14 OSWEGO H 3:30
- 4/19 CBA H 3:30
- 4/20 C SQUARE A 3:30
- 4/21 MARCELLUS H 3:30
- 5/5 CHITTENANGO A 3:30
- 5/6 CAZENOVIA H 3:30
- 5/10 WEEDSPORT H 3:30
- 5/12 ESM A 3:30
- 5/13 OSWEGO A 3:30
- 5/16 CBA A 3:30
- 5/17 C SQUARE H 3:30

**BASEBALL**
- 4/4 CORTLAND (NL) H 4:30
- 4/6 HOMER (NL) H 4:30
- 4/9 WESTBROOK H 3:00
- 4/11 CBA (NL) H 4:30
- 4/13 ESM A 4:45
- 4/15 PHOENIX H 4:30
- 4/18 C SQUARE H 4:30
- 4/20 CORTLAND @ Beauly A 4:30
- 4/22 ESM H 4:30
- 4/25 CANDEN A 4:30
- 4/27 HOMER H 4:30
- 4/29 CHITTENANGO @ Buttern A 1:00
- 5/2 OSWEGO H 4:30
- 5/4 FULTON A 4:30
- 5/7 FM H 3:30
- 5/9 MEXICO A 4:30
- 5/13 NEW HARTFORD (NL) A 4:30
- 5/15 CBA H 2:00
- 5/21 ONEIDA H 11:00

**SOFTBALL**
- 4/1 BROADSVILLE H 4:30
- 4/4 C SQUARE (NL) H 4:30
- 4/6 CBA (NL) A 4:30
- 4/9 AUBURN H 4:00
- 4/11 OSWEGO (NL) H 4:30
- 4/13 ESM A 4:30
- 4/18 C SQUARE @ Brewerton El A 5:00
- 4/20 CORTLAND H 4:30
- 4/22 ESM (NL) A 4:30
- 4/27 HOMER H 4:30
- 4/29 CORTLAND (NL) @ Meldrom 11:00
- 4/30 PHOENIX A 11:00
- 5/1 MERCY @ Gillette Rd A 1:00
- 5/2 OSWEGO A 4:30
- 5/4 HOMER H 4:30
- 5/7 FM (NL) H 3:30
- 5/9 MEXICO H 4:30
- 5/11 CBA H 4:30
- 5/13 CHITTENANGO H 4:30
- 5/16 W GENESEE H 4:30

**BOYS’ TENNIS**
- 4/5 OSWEGO (NL) A 4:30
- 4/6 MEXICO (NL) H 4:30
- 4/11 ESM H 4:30
- 4/13 FULTON A 4:30
- 4/15 OSWEGO H 4:30
- 4/18 C SQUARE A 4:30
- 4/19 CORTLAND (NL) A 4:30
- 4/20 HOMER H 4:30
- 4/22 MEXICO A 4:30
- 5/7 CHITTENANGO H 4:30
- 5/5 PHOENIX A 4:30
- 5/9 CORTLAND H 4:30
- 5/10 HOMER (NL) A 4:30

**TRACK AND FIELD**
- 4/6 C SQUARE A 4:30
- 4/8 CNS RELAYS A 4:30
- 4/13 OSWEGO H 4:30
- 4/20 FULTON A 4:30
- 4/22 RUSH-HENRIETTA RELAYS A 12:00
- 4/29 CHITTENANGO INV A 2:00
- 5/4 HOMER / PHOENIX H 4:30
- 5/6 NEW HARTFORD INV (BOYS) A 4:30
- 5/7 ROME INV (GIRLS) A 2:00
- 5/11 ESM / FOWLER A 4:30
- 5/13 ONEIDA INVITATIONAL A 4:00
- 5/16 FREEDOM @ Fulton HS A 4:30
- 5/24 CLASS A GIRLS @ Chitt HS A 4:00
- 5/27 CLASS A BOYS @ Camden HS A 4:00

**Good luck to all the spring sports teams!**

For updated schedules and other athletic information, visit: [www.jamesvillede Witt.org/athletics](http://www.jamesvillede Witt.org/athletics).

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**Be A Groupie Go PTG**

PTG AND BOOSTER PRESIDENTS
INVITE YOUR PARTICIPATION.
IF INTERESTED, CALL:

**JAMESVILLE**
Heather Begnoche 299-4007 AND Karen Baris 243-9948

**MOSES DEWITT**
Jenny Murphy 307 Landsdown Road Dewit, NY 13214 446-2603

**TECUMSEH**
Ronna Louise 6436 River Birchfield Road Jamesville, NY 13078 410-7766

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**
Jeanette Mysharich 615 Bradford Parkway Syracuse, NY 13224 445-8841

Kristine O’Brien 611 Sycamore Terrace DeWitt, NY 13214 727-8811

**HIGH SCHOOL**
Kerry Durkin 25 Lyndon Road Fayetteville, NY 13066 445-8119

Jodi Schwedes 6871 Clare Circle Fayetteville, NY 13066 445-5547

**Boost the Boosters**

ALL-SPORTS BOOSTER CLUB PRESIDENT
Eric Moskow ericmoskow@verizon.net 446-0807

---

**Rams Coaching Staff**

John Goodman, Athletic Director, 445-8345

Varsity Boys’ Lacrosse
Coach Jamie Archer

Varsity Girls’ Lacrosse
Coach Dennis Kennedy

Varsity Baseball
Coach Ryan Dera

Varsity Softball
Coach Jeff Cantor

Boys’ Softball
Coach Bill Leberman

Varsity Girls’ Golf
Coach Joe Tesori
### April 2016

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<td>BOE – 7pm</td>
<td>NYS ELA Testing 3-8</td>
<td>NYS ELA Testing 3-8</td>
<td>NYS ELA Testing 3-8</td>
<td>HS – College Plan Night Jr. Parents 7pm</td>
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<td>SAT Exam 8am</td>
<td>NYS Math Testing 3-8</td>
<td>JE – Open House (K-2) 6-7pm</td>
<td>NYS Math Testing 3-8</td>
<td>HS/MS – 3rd Quarter marking period ends</td>
<td>HS/MS - Choral Festival (gr.7-12) 3pm &amp; 8pm</td>
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<td>BOE – 7pm</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL – Spring Recess</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL – Spring Recess</td>
<td>HS – NHS Induction 7pm</td>
<td>(Parranet begins @ sandview)</td>
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<td>HS – AP Exams (through 05/13)</td>
<td>MS – Grade 5 to 6 Parent Night 7pm</td>
<td>JE – Musical (gr. 4) 6:30pm</td>
<td>MS – Kaleidoscope 7pm</td>
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<td>SAT Exam 8am</td>
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<td>BOE (Budget Hearing) – 7pm</td>
<td>JE – Spring Concert (Band/Orchestra/Chorus) 6:30pm</td>
<td>MD – Spring Concert (Band/Orchestra/Chorus) 6:30pm</td>
<td>TEC – Spring Concert (Band/Orchestra/Chorus) 6:30pm</td>
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<td>HS – Junior Prom 7-11pm</td>
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<td>MS – 4th grade Parent Orientation &amp; Student Tours 7pm</td>
<td>BUDGET VOTE</td>
<td>HS – Art Show (May 19)</td>
<td>HS – Drama Club Performance 7pm</td>
<td>HS/MS – 4th Quarter marking period ends</td>
<td>HS – Drama Club Performance 7pm</td>
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<td>NYS Science Assessment Performance Gr 3-8 MS – 4th MM reports available</td>
<td>HS – Concert (Band/Orchestra) Senior Tribute 7pm</td>
<td>MS – Awards Ceremony @ HS 7pm</td>
<td>HS – JD Day (tentative)</td>
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<td>NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day</td>
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### Key
- MD: Moses DeWitt Elementary
- TE: Tecumseh Elementary
- JE: Jamesville Elementary
- MS: Middle School
- HS: High School
- PTG: Parent Teacher Group
- OD: District Office
State Champs, and scholar athletes too!

As if winning a State Championship wasn’t enough, the Varsity Girls’ Basketball team also put the “student” in student/athlete by qualifying for state Scholar Athlete designation for team members’ outstanding GPAs. Ditto the Varsity Girls’ Indoor Track team, which earned the title of O.H.S.L. Champions during a meet at the SRC Arena and Events Center at Onondaga Community College.

Winter
Sports
Briefs
• Scholar Athlete Teams — Girls Basketball, Boys Swimming & Diving, Girls Indoor Track, Boys Indoor Track, Wrestling, CBA/JD Ice Hockey (see above for names of student/athletes).
• Girls Basketball — League champs, Section 3 champs, Regional champs and eventual State Champions. Congratulations, Rams!
• Boys Basketball — Section semi-finalists.
• Girls Indoor Track — League champs, Section 3 champs.
• Boys Indoor Track — Section champs.
• Boys Swimming & Diving — League champs.

Competition at states February 27 at Times Union, Albany (2 students from Westhill & Solvay)
• Girls Gymnastics — Our J-D/F-M team had six girls qualify for the Section 3 team. Section 3 placed third in the State meet February 26-27. Competing at States from J-D were Rachel Wells, Anna Dieroff, Mia Potamianos, and Anyi Liebler-Bendix, plus FM’s Taylor Fishkin and Moira Kurak.

How to Reach Us

Board of Education (High School) 445-8304
District Office (High School) 445-8300
High School Main Office 445-8340
Middle School Main Office 445-8360
Jamesville Elementary School 445-8460
Moses DeWitt Elementary School 445-8370
Tecumseh Elementary School 445-8320
Athletic Office (High School) 445-8345

J-D Journal
The J-D Journal is printed throughout the school year by the Jamesville-DeWitt School Board of Education.
Dr. Alice Kendrick, District Superintendent
Joe DeChick, Editor
Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District
P.O. Box 606
Edinger Drive
DeWitt, N.Y. 13214