New Assistant Principal Brings Energy to Jackson
By Jake Berkowitz and Emma Skinner

In Luther Jackson Middle School there are more than 1,000 students, and so it is extremely important to have order, structure, and discipline to ensure that learning is taking place. It is also useful to have, as the saying goes, “a spoonful of sugar” to help the medicine go down. Since early December, the new assistant principal, Rohini Tohan, has been fulfilling these needs.

While Ms. Tohan is upbeat and charismatic, she is working to keep discipline a top priority. Over the past month, Ms. Tohan has been spending her time learning about the school. She described her first weeks at Jackson as a time for “meeting the students and staff and getting to know them.” (continued on page 2)

What Are You Doing After School?
By Tayo Oriade, Akira Tamasho, and Martha Molinaro

At all Fairfax County middle schools, including Luther Jackson, after school programs are designed for extracurricular activities. While students often stay after school to work on academics, many students are able to participate in other programs, such as sports, dance, and a variety of clubs.

This year, Jackson’s after school program includes new popular activities, such as the Come Here And Talk (C.H.A.T.) program and new technology based clubs.

Ms. Christine Lyons is the director of the after school programs. Her office is directly across from the cafeteria. She is often available to discuss the wide variety of programs that are offered.

There are academic clubs at Luther Jackson such as MathCounts, Science Olympiad, and Geography Bee. Additionally, many students have fun participating in after school sports which are generally seasonal and are dependent on the weather. Students can play basketball, tennis, soccer, ping pong, step team and Zumba, to name a few.

Aside from sports, there are other exciting programs. Coding Club, a new club with 8 members was started by three 8th graders: Michael Einhorn, David Godin, and Rachel Naidich. In this fun club, students (continued on page 3)
New AP
(Continued from page 1)

And she has done just that. Since her arrival at Jackson, the new assistant principal has been in the classrooms, the cafeteria, on field trips, and meeting with students and staff individually.

In her position as an assistant principal at Luther Jackson, Ms. Tohan works alongside Principal Mr. Chad Lehman, Assistant Principal Mr. Darwin Barker, and Assistant Principal Mr. Patrick Riley. Mr. Riley shared that he enjoys working with his new counterpart. “She is very collaborative, amenable, and energetic,” he said.

Ms. Tohan lives in Bethesda, Maryland with her husband and two daughters, ages 9 and 5. When she is not at Jackson, she may be driving her daughters to and from ballet class as well as basketball practice and games. She enjoys spending time outdoors, cooking for friends and family, reading, and traveling; although, her favorite hobby is keeping up with her two little girls.

When asked about her impression of Ms. Tohan, Ms. Barb Barnhart, an English special education teacher stated, “She is very well spoken. She approaches issues not only from an administrative position, but from a teacher point of view.” She added that the new assistant principal has not forgotten what it is like to be in the classroom.

Though some educators take a break from school during summer months, Ms. Tohan has worked in summer intervention programs. She has been the site director and the testing coordinator. Prior to becoming an assistant principal in Fairfax County, she also served as a grade-level dean at Stone Middle School.

While she was teaching, she decided to pursue an endorsement in administration from The University of Virginia. She explained, “I wanted to go into administration to have an impact on teaching and learning beyond my classroom.”

With her multifaceted background in teaching, it is not surprising that Ms. Tohan has a great vision for what can be achieved here at Luther Jackson Middle School. “I hope the school will be one of the top schools in Fairfax County in terms of student achievement,” she said.

When she arrived at Luther Jackson, Ms. Tohan said she was “pleased to see the diversity of the school.” Another favorable impression she has had concerns the Bring Your Own Device initiatives. The students are able to use their devices, such as tablets and phones, as classroom tools with teacher permission. Ms. Tohan stated that she was pleased to see “that the school is doing such a good job of leveraging these devices for learning.”

Ms. Tohan is supportive of PAWS intervention and extension activities, especially as it relates to the school-wide literacy goal, the reading initiative that is the overarching goal for improvement at LJ this school year. This is important, she said, “to make sure we meet the needs of all of our students at LJ.”

Ms. Tohan said she wants to give the school her very best. She added that she “loves working with Jackson educators who share [her] commitment to meeting the needs of all of our students.” Working along with Principal Lehman, Assistant Principal Reilly, and Assistant Principal Barker, she feels she can help to support students as they accomplish individual and group milestones. One of her goals is to get to know the students “in order to understand their needs and celebrate their successes.”

There is a common thread in the faculty, students, and staff when asked about their impressions of Ms. Tohan - her enthusiasm for students and learning. Mr. Bob Hassett, one of our school librarians, summed this up. He said, “I had heard nothing but great things about Ms. Tohan from friends who worked with her at other schools, so I felt positive from the start.”

He added, “She’s consistently encouraging and constructive, always looking for ways to help teachers and students improve.”
After School Activities
(Continued from page 1)

learn how to create computer scripts. Naidich explained, “We program video games for use on mobile devices, pc, and the web.”

David Godin of the Coders Club

“Why started with a small vegetable garden has grown into three major student led projects.” Future Business Leaders of America is another after school activity that provides students with in school service learning opportunities.

David Hartford, science teacher and Eco School sponsor said, “Over 50 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a civil rights leader, dazzled the nation at the Lincoln Memorial with just four simple words: “I have a dream.” King fought for equality and justice for blacks in the United States. Unfortunately, James Earl Ray murdered him in 1968, but this did not stop King’s message from being spread. His words are memorialized on monuments across America, King is honored with a national holiday in January, and a new movie, Selma, brings the Freedom March King organized back into the spotlight.

Students study the life of Dr. King, and some teachers and staff recall segregation, which was the practice of separating blacks from whites in public buildings and facilities, including schools. “Schools where I came from were completely segregated when I went to school,” said Mr. Robert Becker, a technology education teacher at Jackson Middle School. In fact, “Luther Jackson actually used to be a black high school - the first in Fairfax County,” he added. The history of Jackson Middle School is highlighted in a showcase in the school lobby.

Many people recall how Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955. This event lead Dr. King to organize nonviolent boycotts and protests in Alabama. Years later, when he was a minister in Atlanta, Georgia, he studied the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, a leader of the Indian Independence movement during British rule. Dr. King was inspired by Gandhi’s belief that only love, not more hate, can defeat hate. He believed that civil disobedience would eventually force change in the treatment of blacks. During this time, many people were beaten, imprisoned, and some were killed.

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
By Rolan Sherwani

Over 50 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a civil rights leader, dazzled the nation at the Lincoln Memorial with just four simple words: “I have a dream.” King fought for equality and justice for blacks in the United States. Unfortunately, James Earl Ray murdered him in 1968, but this did not stop King’s message from being spread. His words are memorialized on monuments across America, King is honored with a national holiday in January, and a new movie, Selma, brings the Freedom March King organized back into the spotlight.

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The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed it with more than 75 pens. Mr. Becker recalls how blacks began to be “treated more equally.” This Act has been expanded to include other groups who were discriminated against, such as those with disabilities.

When Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he was only 35, the youngest person ever to receive the award at that time. He was introduced by the chairman of the Nobel Piece Prize committee as “the first person in the Western world to have shown us that a struggle can be waged without violence.” People in the United States and around the world continue to honor Dr. Martin Luther King for nonviolent protests, his compassion, and his persistence.
The Giver was first published in 1993, she never imagined it would grow into such a famous book. “People are starting to refer to ‘The Giver’ as a classic, but I don’t know how that is defined,” she said in a recent interview. She added the following about her novel’s growth: “If it means that 10, 20, 50 years from now kids will still be reading it, that is kind of awe-inspiring.”

The Giver was the Newbery Award Winner in 1994. As so many contemporary novels are, The Giver is set in a dystopian society, and shows us how the world would look if we took something away from it - choice. Told from the perspective of Jonas, an 11 year old, The Giver is a riveting story that will probably have future generations holding onto every word.

You think about the future. The Giver, the book, truly is a treasure. If you have not read the book, you should - and quickly. The Giver, the movie adaptation, was good, and definitely popular with fans of the book. Lois Lowry has truly created what is now considered a masterpiece around the world.
Current Events
Contributing Writers: Vaishnavi Gopinadam, Sai Duduru Ashok, and Jose Rojas

US Relations with Cuba

US relations with Cuba seem to be on the track to reconciliation. President Obama and Cuban leader Raul Castro have recently allowed the exchange of three Cuban prisoners for one American prisoner. Additionally, the two leaders have also been discussing the lifting of embargoes which would create economic opportunities. Obama and Castro have also been considering allowing for more accessible travel to Cuba.

"deep disagreements" according to US diplomats.

Probe Lands on Comet After a Ten Year Voyage

Most Luther Jackson students were around 3 years old, when a probe and lander named Philae, and its mother ship Rosetta began their journey to Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. After crossing 4 billion miles of space, including passing by Earth a couple of times, Philae bounced twice and then landed on the comet this past November.

makes this feat even more noteworthy. Usually, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is in the forefront with impressive space projects. ESA's Philae is collecting data, such as rock and water samples from the comet. This information may help scientists to understand the chemical makeup of the comet and shed light on what might be the building blocks of the universe.

Popular Holiday Gifts Received

The 2014 Holiday Season was a blast. Many Luther Jackson students received awesome gifts. Some of the most popular gifts included crazy socks, personal care products, clothes, and yes, more gadgets.

The most popular gifts this past holiday season:
- Crazy Socks
- Selfie Sticks
- Over Ear Headphones
- Cameras
- Phones
- Games
- Gaming Systems
- Temporary Hair Dye
- Star Wars Novelty Items
- Netflix Subscriptions
- Wristlets
- Fitness Trackers
- Portable Chargers
- Trendy Throw Pillows
- Laptop Backpacks
- Funny Phone Cases

PBIS
By Grace Molinaro and Martha Molinaro

Positive Behavior Intervention System, known as PBIS, is one of the ways Luther Jackson Middle School students are encouraged to follow the rules. It is intended to keep the learning environment safe and productive. PBIS helps maintain order and reminds students to be respectful.

Mr. Joseph Pfalzer, 7th grade math teacher and a member of the PBIS committee said, "The ultimate goal is to get students to self-monitor their behavior, which will help them in their future careers." He added that another purpose of PBIS is to make students "proud of their school."

All Jackson Middle School students should be familiar with ROAR cards; they are a large part of PBIS. When a student's good behavior is worth noting, teachers or staff can give them a ROAR card. They should deposit the cards in the box in the cafeteria, and on Fridays several winners are drawn and are given prizes. Students can earn Amazon gift cards, movie passes, or gift cards from local businesses. At the end of the year, there will be additional ROAR card drawings and winners can earn more impressive prizes.

ROAR cards are given to students who follow the Tiger Code, which consists of the three Rs: Readiness, Responsibility, and Respect. Tiger Code posters are on the walls of every classroom, reminding students what is expected of them in terms of their behavior. Students also made posters which are all around the school.

"We are trying to make students realize how they need to behave and it works," added Mr. Pfalzer. He explained that the posters, watchful teachers in the hallways, and lessons in 8th Period are all part of the PBIS plan. Because PBIS is essential in increasing positive behavior, it helps to create an effective learning environment at Luther Jackson Middle School.

Double Take: Twins at Luther Jackson
By Nichole Fritsch and Anish Gupta

Twins can be identical or fraternal. They often have many things in common, and they can often help each other. If twins look alike, they can even have fun playing tricks on people. They can switch names to confuse people who do not know them well. Even if they are a pair of friends, they can sometimes argue because they are still siblings. At LJ MS there are several sets of twins, and they are all one of a kind.

Twins Explained:
Identical twins occur when one fertilized egg splits into two separate embryos, creating two embryos. These embryos will develop into babies who look exactly alike.

Fraternal twins occur when two separate eggs become fertilized, creating two separate embryos that will develop into two babies who do not look exactly alike.

Identical twins Grace and Martha Molinaro both think of each other as friends and believe that only their twin can understand them.

Identical twins Byron and Brian Pinto enjoy tricking people but dislike being in the same class.

Identical twins Spencer and Wendy Storck feel a downside to being a twin is constantly being compared to one another.

Identical twins Kendall and Morgan Rogers.

Identical twins Michael and Eddie Kim like having a twin but they often fight with each other as well.

Identical twins Emerson and Brandon Deleon.

Identical twins Mikal and Milka Yemane work together, help each other, and like that they can tell each other anything.

Identical twins Ian and Jasmine Foo think it’s funny when others discover they’re twins.

Identical twins Ian and Jasmine Foo think it’s funny when others discover they’re twins.

Identical twins Kristin and Jayden Chavez

Identical twins Haylie and Kylie Dodds

Identical twins Michael and Brandon Duran

Identical twins Claire and Mason Singer

Identical twins Jennifer and Tiffany Vu have similar interests but different ways of thinking about things.

Fraternal twins occur when one fertilized egg splits into two separate eggs, creating two embryos. These embryos will develop into babies who look exactly alike.

Fraternal twins occur when two separate eggs become fertilized, creating two separate embryos that will develop into two babies who do not look exactly alike.
Android vs Apple: A Techie War
By Agransh Strivastava

Apple and Android have always been in competition, and have always wanted to be ahead of each other. Apple and Android users often enjoy playful bantering about whose phone or other gadget is better. Apple is the only company that makes iPhones, and other “i” products. Android manufactures a variety of products, such as Samsung, Nexus, Motorola, and HTC.

Aside from their products, Apple and Android users get their apps in different places. Android users also go the Google Play store while Apple users go to the Apple App Store. Apple users believe that Apple products have better Wi-Fi-capacity and a faster processing chip than Android products. Android has had higher sales globally, but recently in the US and Japan, Apple products have grabbed a greater share of the market. The Apple iPhone users claim that their phones have a better screen resolution than Androids, but many Android fans believe their cameras are sharper and the battery life on their phones is longer. Another point of argument is cost. Android users claim their phones are the best value for the money. Apple products can cost more, and iPhone devotees want the Apple brand.

There is a good deal of information that compares Android to Apple. This seems to be a continual comparison. The problem is that even with facts and details presented, there is often conflicting information, and it is still a matter of preferences and opinions. Most people get used to buying one product or the other and do not tend to change. Apple users and Android users may continue to argue “my phone is better than your phone” for a long time to come.

New Year, New Technology
By Will Covey and Ethan Kim

The Amazon Echo is the new smart Bluetooth speaker. It is more than a speaker though, as it plays more than music. It gives updates on texts or emails, and makes reminders too. All without lifting a finger. The Amazon Echo is a sturdy 9.5 inch cylindrically designed speaker with a stylish gun metal aluminum casing. A bright blue notification light that wraps around the top is programmable. It can flash orange for text, red for an email, and green for personal reminders. This speaker is also a personal voice assistant that is loud enough to be heard across a room. All of these benefits might make up for the $200 price tag. If you are an Amazon Prime member, it costs $100.

The Amazon Echo uses the cloud and accesses the Amazon web service. It adapts to speech patterns, vocabulary, and personal preferences. It also has an app that makes it compatible with iOS, Android, Fire OS, and Windows. The Echo connects to smartphones and tablets using Bluetooth technology.

This new technology responds to commands to play music, set alarms or timers, make reminders, or answer questions. Which is useful since the speaker is hands free. The cylindrical design and dual down facing speakers provide a 360° Omni-directional audio experience. This smart Bluetooth speaker is a good bang for your buck.

The Razer Nabu

Razer has recently released its new Razer Nabu, which connects to smartphones with Bluetooth. It is a smartband that gives alerts for phone calls, tracks the number of daily steps, and gives updates for social media. All at a glance of your wrist. Currently, it comes in two sizes and four colors. While it is still in the development stages, Nabu can be pre-ordered for about $100.

The Razer Nabu vi-brates for notifications. To dismiss a notification, wearers gently shake their wrists. The Razer Nabu has two displays: the small top display indicates notifications, while the larger bottom display displays more details, such as names and texts.

Unlike smartphones, the Razer Nabu does not require daily charging because the battery lasts up to 10 days. It is also rain-proof. Other features of the Razer Nabu are that it will track data, such as how many steps taken, the distance travelled, or how many calories were burned. All of this can be viewed after the app is downloaded on an Apple or Android. The Razer Nabu’s unique social networking feature will automatically detect when other wearers of Nabu are in proximity, and they can automatically connect to that person through social media.
Sudoku Puzzle

Rules for Sudoku

The object of Sudoku is to fill the empty cells with numbers between 1 and 9 (1 number only in each cell) according the following guidelines:

1. A number can appear only once on each row
2. A number can appear only once on each column
3. A number can appear only once on each region

Sudoku puzzle from: www.websudoku.com

Solution

Matchbox: A Slice of Heaven
Restaurant Review by Anna Stein

As I'm sure you all know, the Mosaic District is a stone's throw from Luther Jackson Middle School. But what you may not know is that there is a little slice of heaven in the Mosaic District, and its name is Matchbox.

Matchbox is a simple, yet elegant restaurant settled directly next to Angelika Theatre. Standing outside, you see the little torches guarding the door, and once you are inside, you see the true beauty of it. Featuring high, wooden tables, and dimmed lights, the atmosphere is perfect for anything from a date to a group outing.

Matchbox is a "vintage bistro" that serves a variety of foods, all quite high-class, but its crowning glory is pizza. Delicious pizza with a creamy, thick marinara sauce topped with just enough cheese to make you want more. The price ranges from around $6 to $20. The staff there are always friendly, kind, and attentive. A few of them even crack jokes from time to time. The atmosphere is perfect for any time, whether it’s a date, or just hanging out with friends.

Matchbox is an amazing restaurant. It rates: ★★★★★

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