

head of school



The cultural shift from emphasizing the word to focusing on the image retards abstract thinking, replaces the work of imagination, weakens community and undermines public goods which demand the interactive deliberation of rational citizens armed with literacy. – Truth Decay by Douglas Groothuis

Today educators are faced with the challenge of having students and families recognize and understand the importance of a strong academic program in an ever-changing cultural environment. Our students face different needs and perspectives from those who graduated in the 1990's. As a school, we are constantly seeking solutions to preparing students for the future with the global competition they will face. Much information is available with the click of a mouse. Everyone has an opinion and is constantly asked to "log on to a media website to share thoughts on a subject." The challenge for our society is to ensure that information presented is accurate, not just opinion, and to differentiate between knowledge and opinion. The above quotation from Mr. Groothuis suggests that it is important that we encourage our children to spend less time at the computer and more time reading and interacting with other individuals.

As an educator, I seek your support for learning. Your respect for teachers and coaches and those who support their efforts does impact our society. As an engaged partner, you give support to the adolescents we serve and their future. It is essential that students understand the importance of a strong work ethic. Today's wealth

could be gone tomorrow, and I am confident our students will be competing with a much broader work force than we have today. As a faculty, we understand the differences in learning styles, abilities and potential. We seek to inspire and encourage students in their natural curiosity and challenge them not to replace the "work of imagination."

In the secondary school setting, students and families often do not fully understand the importance of the "times of struggle" in school. Daily, I have parents say that they want their child to "just have fun." Let me assure you that we also want the good times for teenagers. We are in the business because we like them—it is our choice! However, we understand that an assignment or responsibility that stretches our students or causes slight stress for them is a building block for future problem-solving situations. Graduates continue to share with us how thankful they are to their parents for investing in their education. They are also thankful for individual teachers and coaches during their Prep experience. We find that this perspective is often belatedly gained through maturity.

I thank each student, parent and patron of Jackson Prep for the support and encouragement you give me. May we continue to seek truth and wisdom in the educational process as we strive to mold "rational citizens armed with literacy."

Susan Lindsay
Susan R. Lindsay, Head of School

athletic news

by Will Crosby, Athletic Director

As the weather is finally changing and the spring sports are underway, we are excited about everything that is happening with Jackson Prep athletics. Baseball, track, tennis and golf are all in full swing and are excited about their seasons. Check the website for schedules and come join us on campus at one of these home events.

I would like to recognize accomplishments by some of our varsity athletes. Four of our basketball players were selected to play in the MPSA all-star game on March 7 at Mississippi College. These players were Randle Bane, Mary Stanton Toler, Bob House and John Yerger. We had three soccer players selected to play in the MPSA soccer all-star game as well. The Prep players representing the South were Jason Faulkner, Drew Lewis and Dillon King. Dillon earned the South team's MVP award and was also selected by the Clarion Ledger as 1st Team All State. Congratulations to these athletes and their well deserved honors.

Jackson Prep is very proud of the longstanding history and accomplishments of all its athletic programs. In the junior high programs, one of our primary goals is ongoing evaluation and opportunities for improvement. Because of the addition of sixth graders to our seventh grade football team, we have made some changes in this area. Talent development in these young years is particularly important. To this end, the following improvements will be implemented for the 2008-2009 school year:

- There will be a meeting of seventh grade students interested in playing football during "You are Prep" on Thursday, May 1. This will provide an opportunity for the coaches to meet the players and give them information on the upcoming season.
- Seventh grade football practice will begin before the first day of school, which will be helpful in allowing the coaches to get to know the players and their abilities. These practices before the opening of school will not be mandatory, and students should not cancel scheduled activities, such as summer camps, in order to participate. There will be no penalties to those unable to attend.
- Sixth period practices will be extended to 3:30 p.m., which will result in approximately 20 more minutes of daily practice. This will be equivalent to an extra practice each week.
- In our scheduling efforts, we are going to try to find more seventh grade teams that will be willing to play a fifth quarter to allow more playing time for our athletes.

The sixth and seventh grade football staff is comprised of junior high and varsity coaches who are very knowledgeable of the game. They are excited about these new improvements and are committed to developing players while having fun at the same time.

junior high news

by *Trudy Powers, Head of Junior High*

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTIONS

The Jackson Prep chapter of National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) held its annual initiation ceremony on February 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum. NJHS is an active academic honorary and service organization open to eighth and ninth graders. Membership is based on academics, character, citizenship, service, and leadership. Thirty-six students were initiated this year. The eighth graders inducted were: Sarah Abusaa, Haley Adams, Jamie Aron, Laurel Bane, Davis Bourne, Brad Brewer, Frances Carter, Ariel Cheng, Lexie Griffin, Evan Horsley, Nabhan Karim, Emily Kelly, Whit Kendall, Kyle Kennedy, Maison Lowery, Avery Layne Lyon, Kristen Massey, Mallory McLemore, Sean Michael O'Hara, Kirby Parker, Madison Portie, Pranati Puri, Ashton Reed, Ann Walton Stringer, Shelby Sumner, Katherine Thiel, Jay Vise, Zack Watson, Scotty Wofford, Anna Wright, and Zac Zachow. The ninth grade inductees were: James Craig, Jay Fuller, Clay Hubbard, Anna Malouf, and Marshall Scuggs.

CHI ALPHA MU

On February 21, forty-four junior high students were inducted into Jackson Prep's chapter of Chi Alpha Mu. This national organization honors those students who achieve in mathematics. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled in Algebra I or Geometry and have a 93 average in all math courses taken at Prep. This year the eighth graders inducted were Sarah Abusaa, Catherine Archer, Jamie Aron, Frances Carter, Ariel Cheng, Lindsey Fuller, Lexie Griffin, Evan Horsley, Nabhan Karim, Whit Kendall, Maison Lowery, Avery Layne Lyon, Kristen Massey, Mallory McLemore, Laura Myers, Sean Michael O'Hara, Kirby Parker, Austin Pinkerton, Madison Portie, Pranati Puri, Ashton Reed, Ann Walton Stringer, Katherine Thiel, Carter Thigpen, Jay Vise, Zack Watson, Scotty Wofford, Anna Wright, and Zac Zachow. Also inducted were fifteen ninth graders: Erin Ball, William Brand, Gary Dye, Savanna Farris, Clay Hubbard, Catherine Jameson, Catherine Joyner, Anna Malouf, C. J. Mangum, Murti Patel, Ellie Roberts, Emily Simmons, Elise Tinney, Katie Wilson, and McKenzie Zachary. Congratulations to all these students for their achievements. We are so proud of you!

AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION 8

In the American Mathematics Competition 8, Mallory McLemore and Ariel Cheng tied for 1st place. Congratulations to both girls!

MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

At the chapter Mathcounts Competition held at Jackson Prep, Prep was represented by Sarah Abusaa, Ariel Cheng, Nabhan Karim, Michael Lewis, Jamey McDowell, Mallory McLemore, Nelson Parker, and Ashton Reed. Placing in the top 10 on the written test were Cheng (1st), Karim (4th), Lewis (5th), McLemore (6th), Reed (9th). Ariel Cheng also qualified for the state tournament.

ALA-LA-MISS MATH LEAGUE CONTEST

On Tuesday, February 27, sixty selected seventh grade students and sixty selected eighth grade students participated in the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi Math Contest. Receiving the highest seventh grade score at Jackson Prep was Ariel Cheng, with a score of 38 out of 40. Karthik Reddy received the highest score of all eighth grade students at Jackson Prep with a score of 38 out of 40. Congratulations to these students for a job well done!

SPIRIT TEAM

Spirit Team clinic for any interested girl in seventh or eighth grade will be held April 14-17 and April 21-24 from 3:30 to 5:00.

SPELLING BEE

Three Prep junior high students competed in the MPSEA District III East Spelling Bee on Thursday, February 21 at Christ Covenant School in Ridgeland. Taylor Zhang placed first in the sixth grade division as Prep's first competitor for that grade, and Mary Morgan Haire placed first in seventh grade. Taylor's alternate was Frances Lee, and Mary Morgan's alternate was Sarah Santucci. Eighth grade competitor was Mallory McLemore with alternate Katherine Thiel. Taylor and Mary Morgan will advance to the MPSEA Overall Spelling Bee on Tuesday, April 15 at First Presbyterian Day School in Jackson. Mrs. Gayle Ford is Prep's spelling bee coordinator. Good luck at the state level, spellers!

FEATURE ARTISTS THIRD TERM

Congratulations to the junior high students who were named Feature Artists for the third term. Seventh graders named were Bonnie Blackmon and Tilak Patel. Ninth graders named were Kat Bertaut, Carly Edwards, Merdedith Moyers, and Erika Robinson.

SUBJECT CHOICE SELECTION

Subject choice selection for the 2008-09 academic year began in February. Subject choice cards were sent home for parents of current Prep junior high students to review, complete and return to the school during the final week of February. Parents who have questions concerning their student's class schedule for the 2008-09 academic year are invited to contact Mr. Ozier in the junior high school.

2008-09 APPLICATIONS FOR THE HONORS PROGRAM

Current eighth and ninth grade students applying for the Honors English program participated in a timed writing exercise on Tuesday, April 1 as a part of the application process. Their essays will be read by members of the English department. All students who applied will be notified of their selection in writing by early May. Current seventh grade students applying for Honors Algebra I took a math placement test on that same day as a part of the application process. These tests will be scored, selections determined by the math department, and all students who applied will be notified of their selection in writing by early May. Current seventh and eighth graders applying for the Honors Science program will be notified of their selection in writing by early May.

THANK YOU

The faculty and staff of the junior high want to thank the parents who have brought delicious food and colorful decorations to the junior high teachers' lounge this semester.

high school news

by *Luke Nealey, Head of Senior High*

STAR POWER

Every year the Mississippi Economic Council's Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program has recognized outstanding students and teachers. STAR students are seniors with the highest ACT scores (minimum of 25) and scholastic averages (minimum 93) in each high school. Each STAR student then selects a STAR teacher. This year Patterson Fenelon and Garrett Taylor were selected as Prep's STAR students. Patterson chose Mr. Lain Hughes as his STAR teacher and Garrett chose Mrs. Marsha Hobbs.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR CANDIDATES

Garrett Taylor, Patterson Fenelon, and Christopher Russell have been designated as candidates for Presidential Scholar, the highest national award bestowed upon graduation seniors. Final selection will occur later in the spring.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORTING

Seniors should turn in the green Record of Scholarship Offers and Acceptances form that was mailed to senior parents to the counseling office no later than April 21. Scholarship acceptances will be announced at Class Day. Monetary values of scholarship offers and acceptances are for school statistics only and will not be announced at Class Day.

STATEMENT OF STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

For clarification of acceptance, wait listing, and admission decision procedures, please review the document found on the last page of the College Handbook with your seniors.

CUM LAUDE SOCIETY INDUCTEES

The Jackson Preparatory School Cum Laude Society is an honorary society modeled on Phi Beta Kappa, which encourages and recognizes true scholarship while striving to encourage qualities of excellence, justice and honor. Congratulations to the following juniors and seniors who have been selected for induction. Juniors: Roberto Giorgio Aru, Casey Edna Edwards, Elizabeth Ramsey Frey, Ellen Virginia Haick, Mary Katherine Kerce, Laurel Shelby Lackey, Laura Katherine Lindell, Jared Ethan Moffat, Catherine Craig Mounger, Briana Rachelle Pearson, and Wendong Zhang. Seniors: Laura Ashley Anderson, Robert Lane Bobo, Rachael Jordan Burrow, Charles Campbell Culpepper, Mary Cameron Dogan, Emily Katherine Hildebrandt, Lawrence Dillon King III, Maxwell Alfonso Moran, Mary Margaret Myers, Jesse Marie Pace, Bryant Alexander Salmon, Marianne Veazey Tramel, Marita Cannady Walton, Elizabeth Chambliss Williams.

msms honors

For the twelfth consecutive year, Jackson Prep has won the overall competition trophy at the Mathematics Tournament hosted by the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science. The competition consisted of 27 public and private schools with 650 students competing. In ciphering, which recognizes speed and accuracy, four-member teams placed first in Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. Prep students placed first in the written test division of Algebra II and Pre-Calculus with geometry claiming four of the top ten positions; Pre-Calculus, five; and Calculus, five. The following students represented Prep at MSMS: Algebra I – Catherine Archer, Jamie Aron, Nabhan Karim, Mallory McLemore, Kat McLeod, Austin Pinkerton, Ann Walton Stringer, Jay Vise; Geometry – Sarah Abusaa, Eleanor Anthony, Ariel Cheng, Jay Fuller, Ellen Ross Kerce, Noah Killebrew, Jason Huang; Algebra II – Marco Aru, Patton Henley, Shannon Kynerd, Mary Mikell Lampton, Andrew Li, Clint Pride, Jack Strahan, Rachel Wehr; Pre-Calculus – Nathan Barclay, Ramsey Frey, Tyler Fuller, Mary Katherine Kerce, Katherine Lindell, Bennett Milner, Jared Moffat, Steven Randolph; Calculus – Tim Barnes, Laura Chancellor, Drew Lewis, Mark Pinkerton, Chris Russell, Garrett Taylor, John Harrison York, David Zhang.

email addresses

If you have given us your email address, thank you! You made it easier to contact you in late January to let you know that we had water issues and needed to release early. If we don't have your email address, please email Beth Brooks at bbrooks@jacksonprep.net and ask that you be added to our email list.

pat news *by Lisa Lamb, PAT President*

I am writing this addition of Prep Notes on the heels of the very successful Junior Class Garage Sale. Our parents and children gave so much time and effort to this worthwhile cause, and they worked together like a well-oiled machine. I was elated at some of the comments people verbalized about our students. The Recreational Therapist from Lakeland Nursing Home bought several items for the home and residents. She commented that she loves coming to the garage sale yearly because Jackson Prep children "consistently visit the patients and genuinely care about them. In fact, some Prep children are the only visitors these residents see regularly." What a tremendous statement! Becky Wooley and her highly capable committee are to be commended for the success of this event.

Our next big event will be the annual fundraiser on Thursday, April 3rd, at the Craftsmen Guild in Ridgeland. Be sure to come out for Vince Vance and the Valiants, great food by Wendy Putt, and the silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$100.00 each and may be obtained through Terri Courtney (601-992-5545).

I look forward to seeing you at our regular PAT meeting on April 10 in the Hederman Media Center at 12:00 noon. You will hear from Susan Lindsay, Head of School, and Reta Haire, PAT Liaison. You will also receive information regarding "You Are Prep" and "Fine Arts Month." This is a great way to catch up on what is happening at Jackson Prep.

As this school year and my term as PAT President swiftly draw to a close, I find myself having a hard time saying good-bye to this role. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my entire life, and I have enjoyed getting to know the Jackson Prep faculty, staff and parents. I offer my deepest thanks for your words of encouragement and your faithful support, whether it be through time, money, prayer or emotional support. It has been a privilege to work with Susan Lindsay, who has a selfless love for the school and ALL our children. I extend my thanks to the PAT Board for making our yearly events happen in a timely and beautiful manner. You are the backbone of this organization and wonderful ambassadors for Jackson Prep. Finally, I want to thank the PAT Executive Committee (Anne Toy Gathings, Lisa Hubbard, Amanda Griffin, Deborah Newman, Melissa Neyland, and Sally Buckels). They have served this school with grace, humility and integrity. As Anne Toy Gathings moves from Vice President to President of the PAT, please continue to show her the support and encouragement you have extended to me. She has a servant heart, is approachable, and will represent our school well. Again, thank you for your participation in the PAT, and may God bless the endeavors of this organization in the days ahead.

directory updates

Laura Dye, grade 11 and Gary, grade 9
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Dye
107 Cirencester Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157
Same phone number

Elizabeth Germany, grade 9
630 Holly Bush Road, Brandon, MS 39047
601-829-0704

Travis McCain, grade 8
Mr. and Mrs. Bob McCain
1425 Fontaine Drive, Jackson, MS 39211

departmental spotlights

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT *by Anna Freundt*

Some time within their first year as freshman in college, many Jackson Prep grads find themselves in demand by their classmates and roommates as writing tutors. For some reason, they say, those other students never learned how to write before they came to college. Unlike Prep grads, those students find the task of writing that first freshman essay completely daunting. Thus our grads find themselves talking their new friends through the writing process and offering peer-editing services. Not surprisingly, our graduates do not approach that same college writing assignment with fear and trepidation. Rather, they approach it with confidence and readiness. Why don't our grads see the freshman essay as a Herculean task? Why are the same students who may have struggled somewhat in English through Jackson Prep suddenly confident writers and in demand as "experts" among their peers?

Over the course of their six years as Jackson Prep students, Jackson Prep grads read and wrote weekly. They discussed and analyzed literature and wrote about it; they responded to prompts for in class essays; they wrote essay questions on exams; they researched a variety of topics and formulated research papers using correct documentation; essentially, they practiced the craft of writing in a myriad of assignments weekly for six years. To the English department teaching staff, this story, often told to us by our returning alumni, is comfortingly familiar and confirms for us the goals of our department and the strengths of it as well. Our main goal is to make our students into critical thinkers who can communicate. We achieve our ends by emphasizing reading challenging texts that ask our students to "think outside the box" and by asking them to write about what they have read and garnered from those readings. Critical thinking

skills are developed with practice over time and with exposure to great works of literature. Our students fondly remember Scout from "To Kill A Mockingbird" and most can still quote lines from *Romeo and Juliet*. But more importantly, the English department takes its greatest pleasure in knowing that what we emphasize is independent critical thinking and writing skills that will carry our students well beyond the high school and even the college classroom: it will carry them into the larger conversations of adult life and shape their communication skills for years to come.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT *by Lain Hughes*

The Social Studies department at Jackson Prep is made up of eleven professionals and ten different courses, all with one primary goal: to equip students to be informed, participatory, and dutiful citizens of their city, state, nation, and world. From the earliest study of geography to the Advanced Placement government coursework, every class in the department stresses the history, context, and connections that have created our modern world. Teachers incorporate current events into their classes at all levels, which is particularly exciting in an election year.

Students begin with geography in seventh grade before tackling the first half of American history (up through Reconstruction) in eighth. Ninth grade is split between Mississippi History and World Culture & Geography, which leads directly into tenth grade's World History class. Juniors pick up their study of U.S. history with an emphasis post-Reconstruction America. The junior year is also the first time that students may, if selected, choose to take their social studies at the AP level. All Prep seniors study economics and government, with AP as an option for the latter.

Students also have the opportunity to put their knowledge into practice through programs such as Youth Legislature (junior and senior high) and Model Security Council, all sponsored by department members.

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upcoming events at jackson prep

BASEBALL SPRING FLING

On Friday, April 4, the Alumni Council, the Office of Admission and the tenth grade class will host *Baseball Spring Fling*, formerly known as Prep Fest. There will be games for children in grades K-6 in the Manning Patriot Center from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. A hotdog tailgate supper will be provided for all "Fling" participants before the Jackson Prep vs. Jackson Christian School baseball game at 7:30 p.m. The "Fling" armband will provide free admission to the "Border War" baseball game that night. All tenth grade students will be participating in this event production along with a stellar group of tenth grade parent volunteers. Tenth grade parents: if you have not been assigned to a helping spot already, please contact Melanie Dowell, PAT Spring Fling Chair, to claim a task at Melanie.W.Dowell@smithbarney.com. For more information, contact Lucia Jones at ljones@jacksonprep.net or Lesley Morton at lmorton@jacksonprep.net.

SPRING DANCE FOR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

The junior high student council will sponsor a "dateless" spring dance for all junior high students on Thursday, April 24, 2008 in the Manning Center from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. The dance is for Prep students only. The dress is casual: jeans and t-shirts or casual dresses. No individuals with bare shoulders, exposed midriffs, shorts or skirts more than three inches above the knee will be admitted. If students need to leave before 10:00, they must have a note from their parents giving permission. Price of admission is \$5.00.

JUNIOR HIGH CLASS DAY

On Friday, May 9, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fortenberry Auditorium, parents are invited to honor the class of 2010. Attire for ninth grade boys is dress slacks, light colored dress shirt, tie, and dress shoes. Ninth grade girls' attire is Sunday dress with dress shoes. No bare shoulders or midriffs. Length of skirts should be appropriate for sitting on stage. Please be sure that all attire is within these guidelines. Ninth graders will receive information detailing plans for the day.

JUNIOR HIGH FORUMS

On Tuesday, May 13, at 10:55 a.m., selected eighth graders will receive academic awards at an Honors Forum. Seventh graders will have their Honors Forum on Wednesday, May 14, at 10:55 a.m. Both programs will be held in the Fortenberry Auditorium. Students should wear their regular school uniforms that day. Parents are invited to these forums and are encouraged to attend.

SENIOR HIGH CLASS DAY

Senior High Class Day is Friday, May 2, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fortenberry Auditorium. This is the time to formally recognize seniors who have been outstanding in their academic pursuits and in school and community activities. The program usually lasts 1-2 hours. Families of seniors are invited to attend.

SENIOR HIGH HONORS FORUM

The Senior High Honors Forum is Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 10:55 a.m. in the Fortenberry Auditorium. Sophomores and juniors will be recognized for their accomplishments in academics and the arts. Parents are invited to attend.

GRADUATION

Join us as we honor Jackson Prep's Class of 2008. The ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at Thalia Mara Hall. Families and friends of seniors are invited to attend.