



Supporting the Needs of  
High Ability Students in the  
Johnston Community School  
District

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# Friends of Johnston ELP Newsletter

## Spring 2017

**Bridget Lagier**, 5th grader at Wallace Elementary, has been published in **Highlights Magazine**!! She also won 3rd prize in The Writing Conference, Inc., in the elementary poetry division. Bridget received a certificate and will be published in the mid-April issue of the **Writer's Slate**, the online publication of the Writing Conference, Inc. Congratulations Bridget!



*Change*  
*—Bridget Lagier*

An apple is always an apple,  
no matter where it is.  
A life is always a life,  
no matter how it's lived.  
A star is always a star,  
no matter which galaxy.  
You are you.  
I am me.  
We are we.  
Despite what life throws at us,  
the changes we make,  
the people we love,  
we are ourselves,  
and that is a good thing to be.

### 2016-2017 ELP Staff

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# Friends of Johnston ELP Program News



## Chaperones Needed!!

All 7th grade ELP STEM students will be visiting Iowa State University on April 25th to visit labs at Sukup Hall and the ADM BRL, as well as participate in presentations by the CIRAS 3D Additive Lab and Cyclone Space Mining. They will complete the day attending the Spring Design Expo hosted by the College of Engineering. We will need 10-12 parent chaperones for this event; anyone interested can contact Ms. Ites at [colleen.ites@jdragonmail.us](mailto:colleen.ites@jdragonmail.us).

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## March ELP Program

We had a great turnout for our 3rd Parent Program of the school year entitled, "**Mindset**", presented by Dr. Robyn Cooper and Dr. Catherine Gillespie from Drake University. It was a very informative and thought-provoking program – "thank you" so much to our presenters. Thanks to all who took time out of their busy schedules to be with us!



## AmazonSmile

Are you an online shopper? Please consider shopping through AmazonSmile! The AmazonSmile Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private foundation created by Amazon to administer the AmazonSmile program. Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations based on eligible purchases to eligible charitable organizations, such as Friends of Johnston ELP, by electronic funds transfer. When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization (*please select Friends of Johnston ELP*) from almost one million eligible organizations. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. Please consider selecting "**Friends of Johnston ELP**" for future Amazon purchases or use the following link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-0785970>.

# Elementary School Fun

Submitted by Mitzi Hetheron, Nikki Paradise-Williams, Kristen Hartman, Kate Florer

There are a variety of things happening in elementary buildings across the district. These are just *some* of the wonderful learning opportunities in which students have been engaged.

## Kindergarten

- ✍ Small Groups in reading and math
- ✍ Kevin Henkes book study
- ✍ Fables

## First Grade

- ✍ Word Puzzles and analogies
- ✍ Volcano research
- ✍ Critical Thinking Unit
- ✍ Created symbolic representations of nursery rhymes for others to solve

## Second Grade

- ✍ Inquiry-based lessons on adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers
- ✍ Using coordinates to graph numbers to make a picture
- ✍ Problem solving with money, logic and number puzzles
- ✍ Poetry
- ✍ Researching how our language has changed over time
- ✍ Chocolate research

## Third Grade

- ✍ Reading and discussing *Who Was Milton Bradley*, *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, *The Willoughby's*, and *Alice in Wonderland*
- ✍ Identified and developed strategies in games for fairness using probability
- ✍ Sentence Island
- ✍ Moli Stone investigation of number systems from other cultures
- ✍ Awesome algebra enrichment unit which focuses on looking for and generalizing patterns in numbers
- ✍ Studying Roman History

## Fourth Grade

- ✍ Took our last contest for Math Olympiads—look for results in our next newsletter!
- ✍ Stock Market Game
- ✍ Beyond Base 10 enrichment unit
- ✍ Paragraph Town
- ✍ Caesar's English
- ✍ Novel study on immigration

## Fifth Grade

- ✍ Took our last contest for Math Olympiads—look for results in our next newsletter
- ✍ Algebra
- ✍ Challenge Math chapters related to EDM concepts
- ✍ Lure of the Labyrinth
- ✍ Caesar's English
- ✍ Newspaper—writing and editing
- ✍ Individual projects on future careers, vacation planning, and interest-area subject
- ✍ Wrote a memoir after reading a famous autobiography and analyzing photo-biographies
- ✍ Compared and contrasted two novels based on the theme of “change”
- ✍ Explored the theme of “journeys”. Read several texts about explorers and looked closely at their successes and failures



Wallace 3rd graders learning about Base 3 in math.  
L to R: Zander, Cael, Wes, Macie



Lawson 5th graders got a visit from Edward Jones' Nate Milone to help them plan for a successful Stock Market Game.  
L to R: Mason, Landon, Zane, Carson, Courtney, Ben, Ava, Jackson

# News from Summit Middle School

Submitted by Colleen Ites

## 6th grade ELP

Humanities students are completing their historical research for Research I. Using NoodleTools software, students have been organizing their sources and notecards to set them up as Annotated Bibliographies and print them into professional looking documents. Students have also been examining how to choose and integrate pathos, ethos, and logos into a structured argument wrapped in a thesis frame, utilizing chronology or causality in their arguments. These thesis frames will show how their writing structure impacts the emotional take-away the reader has about the quality of research on their topic dealing with Taking a Stand in History.

STEM students have completed TED.com-style videos about their research and basic actuarial data studies on how best to solve a specific developing-world problem. They are now working either individually or in groups to complete patent and prior art due diligence research into existing patented items as they complete patent drawings for improvements to an everyday object. They will soon use the Makerspaces in Ms. Ites' room to create and build their own prototypes, then write a provisional patent application on that prototype. They will also create a product development strategy determining the expenses of production and possible sales. They will work with Tej Dhawan of [Entrepreneurial Technologies](#) to gain insight into where they can improve their product development strategy before creating their own 2-minute Shark Tank-style videos.

## Math Counts!

Congratulations to the following qualifiers for the Math Counts State Meet held on March 31!

Matthew He

Kunal Singal

Anthea Chang

Eshaan Chandini

## 7th grade ELP

Humanities students presented their historical research projects at the Language Arts Showcase hosted in the Summit LMC on Friday, April 24th. Wrapping their research around the National History Day theme of Taking a Stand in History, students created exhibits, websites, documentaries, performances, and historical papers on a variety of people and events that brought about a change of events in a historical perspective. Students utilized NoodleTools softwares to help organize the research process and loved the professional-looking research products accomplished utilizing the software. Members of the JCSD School Board, Johnston City Council, Summit PTO, parents, faculty, staff, and students of Summit Middle School attended to view projects and discuss the research process with LA Showcase participants. Students are now creating essays, poetry, musical entries or visual arts representations of how the Fourteenth Amendment has impacted their lives, and some are planning on entries these entries into the Polk County Bar Association Law Day Competition in April.

STEM students have completed their architectural and structural engineering 3D improvements in Sketchup, a CAD software, as well as printing a 3D logo for their created business (architectural or engineering) using 3Doodler pens awarded to Ms. Ites last year from the Johnston Community School Foundation. Half of these students are now in the process of developing engineering drawings and specs for robot proposals to work a lunar mining colony in the Lunar Robotics class while the other half are examining genetics at the cellular and nuclear levels in Forensic Science.

Students participated in National History Day Merle Hay Regional on April 8th. Entries included individual and group performance, group exhibit, group documentary, and individual websites. Look for results in the next newsletter!



# Johnston Middle School

Submitted by Kathy Paul

## Middle School Belin- Blank Summer Program Selections

The following students were selected as participants for this year's University of Iowa's Belin-Blank Summer Institute:

### JOHNSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ryan Freidhoff—Math Problem Solving  
Mikayla Lies—Creative Writing  
Kathryn Christy—Social Sciences  
Catreena Wang—Global/Cultural  
Riley Anderson—Visual Arts  
Megan Jones—Advanced Science (alternate)  
Kyle Lastine—Invention and Innovation (alternate)

### SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Emma Dummermuth — Advanced Science  
Katie Sweet — Global & Cultural Studies  
Ellie Lashier — Social Sciences  
Elise Henrichsen — Creative Writing  
Ainsley Proctor— Visual arts

The students underwent a rigorous nomination process from the school district and were submitted along with students across the state for the opportunity to be selected for a one-week summer residential institute held in Iowa City. Each student will receive a partial program scholarship, as well as a scholarship towards future admission at the University of Iowa. The students work with specialists in the chosen area and have an opportunity to take advantage of many opportunities on campus. This is a high honor to have so many chosen to represent Johnston Schools.





# Johnston High School News

Submitted by Sue Cline and Kathy Paul

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

This year, for the first time, multiple students have decided to form their projects around community service, which is a wonderful way for learners to practice organization and communication skills as well as take action in areas of social or economic need. Three projects in particular are working to assist portions of the population that can be overlooked in the world at large. These three projects are profiled below.

### Angel Nyaga - School Supplies for Areas of Economic Need

Angel has been researching areas in the world, in the state and in the metro, to determine where students are in need of educational supplies. This research led Angel to the conclusion that, although areas far away are in desperate need of assistance, it was more logical for her to focus on the local area first. She is hoping to create a self-sustaining program where donated new and gently used supplies can be transferred from Johnston to metro schools in need of support. This process will allow her to determine if a program could be developed that reaches out to a greater distance.



### Sarah Martin - Board Games for the Disabled

Sarah is creating a registered non-profit organization designed to obtain common board games, have them modified to work more appropriately with the handicapped population, and then donate them to schools, organizations and group homes in need. Since she is in the beginning stages, she is working to gather donated gently used games. Sarah has located a company ready to do the adaptations, and her partnership with Childserve will provide her product testing. and feedback.

### Taylor Timmerman/Erin Anderson - Handicapped-accessible Bicycle for JMS Students

Taylor and Erin are service students in the special needs classroom at JMS, and became aware of a company which creates bicycles to allow wheel-chair bound students to ride while someone else powers the structure. Unfortunately, these adapted cycles are quite expensive. Erin and Taylor are planning possible fundraisers, investigating a partnership with the Johnston Schools Foundation and have located a business sponsor to assist in their quest. Even though in different ELP class periods, the girls have managed to work together to make progress in meeting the needs of a population they work with daily.



# Johnston High School News

Submitted by Sue Cline and Kathy Paul

## STATE ACADEMIC DECATHLON RESULTS

12 Johnston students and 3 volunteers traveled to Cedar Rapids March 3-4 to compete in the 30th annual State Academic Decathlon competition. We returned with a record-high point total, 20 individual medals and our third consecutive 2nd place finish.

After seven multiple choice exams over World War I history, science, art, music, literature, and economics, an exam covering mathematics, an essay, a speech and an interview, Johnston students accumulated 36,917 points. We finished closer to the first place team than ever before, due to hard work and a positive attitude. Team members also took home a total of 20 individual medals, earned the top Honors and Scholastic alternate awards, and the second place Varsity alternate award. Congratulations to all the students who played at the Regional and State levels for a great year.

### Honors Division

Aditi Jithendra (11th grade)

- ◇ 2nd overall honors student for the entire competition
- ◇ 1st in Social Science
- ◇ 2nd in Essay
- ◇ 3rd in Art
- ◇ 3rd in Science
- ◇ 3rd in Language/Literature

Afshan Chandani (12th grade)

- ◇ 1st in Math

Kevin Dial (11th grade)

- ◇ 1st in interview

### Scholastic Division

Asiya Mohammed (12th grade)

- ◇ 2nd in Speech
- ◇ 3rd in Interview

Alexis Pottebaum (12th grade)

- ◇ 1st in Essay

Sarah Martin (11th grade)

- ◇ 2nd in Interview

### Alternates

Andrew Ehler (12th grade)

- ◇ 1st overall Honors
- ◇ 1st overall All Alternates

Ciara Becker (12th grade)

- ◇ 1st overall Scholastic

Millie Brewer (12th grade)

- ◇ 2nd overall Varsity

### Varsity Division

Bobby Bailey (12th grade)

- ◇ 1st in Science
- ◇ 1st in Math
- ◇ 3rd in Social Science

Avery Swizdor (11th grade)

Jadyn Lovelady (12th grade)

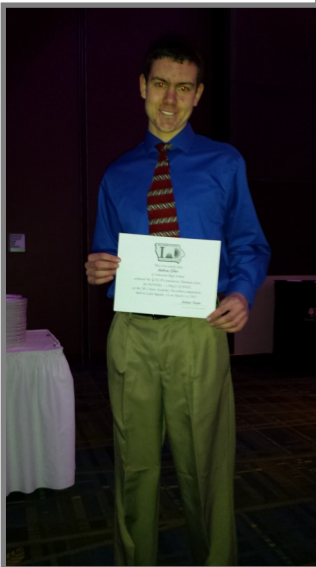
- ◇ 2nd in Interview
- ◇ 2nd in Language/Literature
- ◇ 3rd in Speech



Special thanks to volunteers Xavier Leonard (12th grade), Ceci Hodson (11th grade) and Casey Hodson (10th grade) for helping us ensure the tournament ran smoothly. We couldn't have done it without you!

# State Academic Decathlon Pictures

Submitted by Sue Cline and Kathy Paul





# Mock Trial District Competition

Submitted by Kathy Paul

High School students from Johnston Community School District recently competed in the annual Mock Trial program. Nine teams represented Johnston this year in the district competition held in early March. Four teams: All-American Redirects, Squadra, Big Mock Candy Mountain, and Jabberwocky qualified to advance to the state level March 27-29.

Students who received recognition as outstanding witness or attorney at the district level are designated with a star after their name.



Team Squadra

Jim Johnson & Brad Price/ Laura Beebe, Coaches  
 Peter Beebe\* (attorney) Brooke Thacker  
 Sam Flodin\* (Witness) Tara Djukanovic\* (Witness)  
 Morgan Bump Caroline Ludwig  
 Gabby Fritz Julia Cavanah  
 Simran Gollapudi Isabelle Thomasee



Big Mock Candy Mountain

Rachel & Joel Hjelmaas/Amy Lucas, Coaches  
 Mark Nagel Kathryn Ikeda\* (Attorney)  
 Sean Reddick\* (Witness) Marie Johnson  
 Anika Schmitt Will Gavin  
 Hailey Abbey Andrew Janni\* (Witness)  
 Jack Lucas\* (Witness) Prakhyath Bujimalla\* (Attorney)

## All-American Redirects

Jake Oeth/Brian Carico, Coaches  
 Grant Fuhr\* (Witness) Nicole Hobson\* (Attorney)  
 Jady Lovelady Jillian Gabby  
 Megan Hartle\* (Attorney) Kate Carico  
 Lizzie Boeschen\* (Witness) Alexis Rivett\* (Attorney)  
 Justin Hu Nathan Zoss\* (Witness)  
 Luke Safris—Team Supporter



# Mock Trial District Competition

Submitted by Sue Cline and Kathy Paul



Team Avengers

PA Henrichsen/Kristen Holm, Coaches

Ally Andreason	Mikayla Bump
Maddie Gregurek* (Attorney)	Rachel Johnson* (Witness)
Madi Holm	Aditya Somisetty* (Attorney)
Will Henrichsen	Chris Yao
Sierra Wicks	Anna Xiang



Awfully Lawful

Van Everett/Kristin Lee, Coaches

Makenna Gregurek* (Witness)	Karson Lee
Max Wilson	Taylor Siebert
Brooklyn Dilley	Vassil Tchapravov* (Witness)
Rachel Vandover	Jackie Liang

Team Jabberwocky

Greg Hapgood/Amy Winkler, Coaches

Katelyn Winkler* (Witness)	Grace Campidilli
Angela Cai	Allie Tubbs* (Attorney)
Kate Hapgood* (Attorney)	Lauren Gabby
Sydney Hedgepeth	Madison Dunn
Maggie Hapgood	





# Mock Trial District Competition

Submitted by Sue Cline and Kathy Paul



Team Mellius Quam Pessimum

Kathy Aldrich, Coach

Marianne Aldrich* (Attorney)	Lauren Fergus
Parul Srivastava	Ashley McGovern
Obsee Abbajabal* (Witness)	Aline Texeira
Ethan Hartle	Lydia Thomasee
Joseph Haggerty* (Witness)	Kenzie Stanley

Team Opal

Janice Arthur/Jim Hinchcliff, Coaches

Joe Arthur* (Witness)	Robbie Beaman
Keyshawn Gunn	Marshawn Gunn
Prithvi Jamadagni	Matthew Ding
Sam Dolde	Sarah Andreason
Erin Anderson* (Attorney)	Michael West



Team LexPurPura

Rob Goedicke/Ana Runyan, Coaches

Alexis Pottebaum	Katie Saf* (Attorney)
Asiya Moohammed* (Witness)	Shreya Shrestha
Milind Jetty	Joanne Wu
Alena Longnecker	Hope Ung
Stella Zheng	Christian Schiller



# Mock Trial State Competition

Submitted by Kathy Paul

## State Mock Trial Results In!

The four JSCD teams did well at state, with **Big Mock Candy Mountain** receiving 11th place trophy and **All American Redirects** being presented with the coveted sportsmanship award. In addition, **Prakhyath Bujimalla** was recognized as an outstanding attorney at the state level..



Prakhyath Bujimalla—Outstanding Attorney



Big Mock Candy Mountain



All American Redirects