As the new principal of JCMS I want to welcome everyone to the 2002-03 school year. I am starting my tenth year as a school administrator serving in both elementary and middle school situations. I also spent over twenty years in the classroom before deciding to become an administrator.

My husband, our ten-year-old daughter, and I are in the process of moving to Bloomington from Peru, Indiana. We have six children ranging from age thirty-four to Nicola at age ten. My husband is a professor of voice at Indiana University and also travels around the world singing opera.

I am very excited to be at Jackson Creek and have heard so many wonderful things about the staff, students, and parents. One of my main goals is to get to know the students and their parents as soon as possible so that we can work together in the best interest of all at Jackson Creek.

Please feel free to call or come into the school to discuss concerns or to just let me know the positive things that are happening for your child here at JCMS.

Donna Noble, Principal
Jackson Creek Middle School

Welcome to the first edition of the Jackson Creek PTO Newsletter for the ’02-’03 school year. The PTO is publishing a student/parent directory which will be available in mid-October, will host the “Spirit Dance” on October 4th, and has provided assistance with ticket sales and concessions at the home athletic events so far this school year.

There are many opportunities to volunteer and take an active role in your child’s middle school life. The Spring Talent Show, Staff Appreciation Week, this newsletter, the PTO website, Red Ribbon Week, and assisting at upcoming athletic events are projects the PTO need help to support. If you have already signed up to help—thank you. If not, let us know what you’d like to do. Working together with the faculty and staff of Jackson Creek creates a valuable “team” approach to your child’s education.

We have two upcoming meetings February 5th and May 7th that we hope you will attend. The meetings include a performance by one of the student groups, relevant information presented by faculty and staff and an opportunity to share questions and ideas with other parents. It’s not too late to join!

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Special points of interest:
- Teen Read Week: October 14-18 is annual American Library Association’s Teen Read Week. The week is designed to encourage students to read more than their textbooks. In celebration of the week, Jackson Creek Book Club will begin their weekly meetings on Wednesday, October 16th. They will meet in room C209 during lunch for a pizza party. All students are welcomed.
- Magic: every first and third Tuesday, students who are interested in the Magic: the gathering card game can come to the library to play with other students. Various students get together to play the game between 2:45 to 4:00 p.m.
- Getting involved in extra-curricular activities is a great way to help students make JCMS their home. Builders Club/Youth Network, introduced on page 2, could be just the right club.
- To subscribe to the PTO news source to receive occasional mailings on events of interest to JCMS parents, send an e-mail message to majordomo@mccsc.edu. Leave the subject blank and in the body of the message type (without the quotes) “subscribe jcmspto”. If you have trouble subscribing, send an e-mail message to owner-jcmspto@mccsc.edu.

Attendance ....your presence is important to us ....
Be on time .......
Advisor/Advisee is a vital part of each day .......
The JCMS Jazz Band is already into its Fall rehearsal schedule. This band with 32 members, meets every Wednesday after school from 2:45 - 3:45 and is preparing for the Bloomington Jazz Festival.

The Pep Band, after its Sept. 25th football game performance, will appear at two volleyball games, Oct. 1 and Oct. 23. Look for the band at several basketball games, too.

The Concert Bands will combine to perform at the school’s Fall Pep Rally on Friday, Oct. 4th, during periods 6 & 7.

The two Beginning Bands have their first concert on Thursday, Oct. 10th. The performances start at 6:00PM and will last until 6:45PM. All Beginning Band members should report to the band room by 5:30 that evening, to prepare for the concert.

Banned Book Week was the week of September 23 through the 27th. Language Arts classes came to the library media center to listen to Mrs. McGlaun’s book talk about books that have been banned and challenged in Indiana. Students were encouraged to exercise their intellectual freedom to read.

During the first full week of classes students were given a library media center orientation in which they were informed of the rules of the media center that can be found in their agenda book. Students were reminded that it is important to either return or renew their library material by the due date in the back of the book or they will need to pay a .05 fine for every day the item is overdue.

The month of October is filled with many wonderful young adult authors. Some of the authors include: Bruce Brooks, Karen Cushman, Russell Freedman, Ursula Le Guin, Katherine Paterson, Philip Pullman, R.L. Stine, Stephanie S. Tolan, and more. Check out the Author Birthday Corner and read one of their books.

Various classes have been in the library this six weeks. Mr. Binford’s 7th grade social studies, Mrs. Martin’s 7th science, and Mr. Keefer’s 7th grade language arts classes learned how to effectively search the web. Ms. Zock’s 7th grade language arts and Mrs. McQueen’s 8th grade Art and Artists classes learned about the history of comic books and are currently writing and illustrating comic books for this year’s Teen Read Week. Mr. Binford’s 8th grade social studies and Mr. Sheehan’s 8th social studies researched New World Exploration. In honor of National Hispanic Month, Mrs. Scott brought her 7th and 8th grade Spanish Classes to the library to see the various resources available in the Spanish language.

The Builder’s Club and the Youth Network student coalition recently joined together to provide a unique opportunity for students looking to get involved. The joint club shares the goal of creating an environment where students can plan activities that have a positive impact on their school and the community at large. Community affiliations aid the club in their endeavors. The Builder’s Club is associated with Bloomington Kiwanis Club and the Youth Network is sponsored by the Youth Services Bureau.

Led by 8th grade president Kip Gibson and advised by Mrs. Green and Mr. Terwilliger, the Builder’s Club/Youth Network welcomes any student who is looking for a way to get more involved at JCMS.

Over twenty 7th and 8th graders attended an all day training workshop last weekend. Along with having lots of fun, they also worked on team building, public speaking, and leadership skills. For personal enrichment, students choose other workshops of tae kwon do or art with a local artist. Students look forward to putting their new skills and ideas into action as they plan projects for this semester.

Planting a school garden in front of the main entrance is the first project of the club this school year. The club hopes to help beautify the front of the school and create a more welcoming entrance for students. Cedar Bluff Garden Center has offered their support in providing materials and expertise.

A big thank you goes Cedar Bluff owner and seventh grade parent, Lorelei Cascio, for all of her efforts. Watch the progression of the garden’s creation this fall!

If you have newsworthy items for the upcoming issue of the newsletter, please contact Beth Plale at plale@cs.indiana.edu.