Dr. Suellen Reed, State of Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction, announced in late February that JCMS has been designated a Four Star School for 2000-01. The Four Star designation indicates that JCMS performed in the top 25 percent of Indiana schools for each of the four areas measured: attendance rate; language arts proficiency score; mathematics proficiency score; and percentage of students meeting state standards in both English/language arts and mathematics. JCMS received one star in each of the four areas so this is the highest level of recognition for a school in the State of Indiana.

Principal Jacobs’ follow-on:
Success is everyone’s responsibility, but it comes about by one person taking one action at a time. The diligent, continuous dedication to JCMS from its students, teachers, administrators, staff members, and parents is the reason the school is being honored for its excellence. Let us continue to build upon what we are achieving and leave no gaps in providing the best education possible for all of the JCMS students. The JCMS community members have been earnestly striving to earn this academic honor from the day the doors of this school first opened in 1998. We have now achieved recognition so this is the beginning of an outstanding educational era for Jackson Creek Middle School.

Student Council Raises Money
The Jackson Creek Student Council has had a busy year. After collecting $400 to send to the New York City Red Cross, the representatives jumped into the annual Hoosier Hills Food Drive. Over 2000 pounds of food was collected along with over $400 was donated to Hoosier Hills. The Student Council opted to give all the proceeds from their winter dance to Hoosier Hills. In February, the annual flower, song-grams, and candy sale was held. Mrs. Gwen Upchurch and Mr. Kenneth Upchurch delivered over 100 song-grams to happy recipients on Valentine’s Day. Flowers were delivered to the residents of our neighbor, Alters House, and to the residents of Beverly Health Care. Student Council representatives personally delivered the flowers. During lunch on Valentine’s day, flowers and candy were sold to JCMS students. It was a wonderful day for all. Future events include the Riley Children’s Hospital fund drive, end of the year Spring Dance, and planning a school gift.

Choir Spring Concert
The 7th and 8th grade Mixed Choirs will travel to Columbus East on April 6th, a Saturday, to participate in the ISSMA Choir Festival. Times to be announced. The choirs will also hold their Spring Concert on May 16th, a Thursday. The 7th grade will perform at 6:30 pm and the 8th grade at 8:00 pm. The concert is free and everyone is welcome.

Special points of interest:
• March is Women’s History Month. Check out the book display in the library and ask your student what they learned about Women’s History.
• Overdue Library Books: Just a friendly reminder to all students who have overdue items. There are quite a number of students who have overdue items and large fines. Please return the items to the library and pay for any outstanding fines.
• Thank you to everyone who helped at the Book Fair in January. It was a wonderful success and the students really seemed to enjoy themselves. The library earned over $500 in books.
• Talent Show tryouts are April 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. April 17th is the tentative rehearsal date, and the show is scheduled for the morning of April 30th. Interested parent volunteers should contact Viki Thevenow at 824-1888.
• The next PTO meeting is May 1st at 7:30 p.m.
• Anyone interested in serving as an officer in the PTO for the ’02-03 school year should call Jill Crawford 331-7717.
• 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. The subject line of the e-mail should be blank (empty), 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.
**Band Performances**

Saturday, March 2, the JCMS Jazz Band attended the ISSMA Jazz Festival along with 14 other middle school and high school bands. Competing in group 3, our band received a Division 1 superior rating. The Jazz Band played "Blues Machine", "Flying Fish" and "Free Ride" with fifteen of our musicians performing improvised solos. Congratulations to the band and a big thanks to those parents that accompanied the band to Terre Haute.

The Jazz Band’s final performance of the year takes place at school, Friday, March 8, during both lunch periods. The band will set up in the auditorium lobby. Students (and parents) may listen to the band any time from 10:48 until 12:05. We will take a break in the middle to grab some food; even jazz musicians get hungry!

Coming up in early April, the Beginning Bands are involved in the Monroe County Beginning Band Festival, hosted this year by Tri-North Middle School. Our bands are performing Tuesday, April 2, at 6:00 PM and 7:30 PM.

The Concert Bands will be traveling to Columbus East HS for their performances in the ISSMA Band Contest on Saturday, April 6. The exact times will be announced after Spring Break.

Parents are always welcome and encouraged to attend these events. It’s great to see an audience full of friendly faces, cheering us on, as we perform some very challenging music. By the way, all of the bands will be performing these songs for the school in our auditorium on Friday, April 5, during their band period.

**News from the Art Room**

Students at Jackson Creek will be among hundreds of Monroe County young artists to be honored at a reception celebrating YOUTH ART MONTH. Students in Mrs. McQueen’s Art & Artists classes, Chris Colijn, Mae Boyer, Allison Baker in grade 8, and Claire Krushke, Minae Choi, and Courtney Sunderland in grade 7 will have art at Indiana University Art Museum for the month of March. Six eighth graders from Ms. Di Camillo’s Art Rotation classes are also in this exhibit. A reception was held on Saturday, March 2 to honor these talented teens.

Also newsworthy: Mrs. McQueen will be traveling to Australia and New Zealand this summer with PEOPLE TO PEOPLE.

Student Ambassadors is a program started by President Eisenhower to help foster appreciation and peace between nations around the world. Students are invited to go as young ambassadors, and this year, Mrs. McQueen is taking students from the Terre Haute area on a three week South Pacific Adventure. Check out their website at www.studentambassadors.org.

**Academic Superbowl Competes April 9**

The Jackson Creek Academic Super Bowl team will be competing in the Brown County Invitational on April 9, 2002. This exciting event is slated to begin at 5:00 PM and end after rounds of questions in the areas of English, science, social studies, and science. The theme this year is "The Years Between the Wars".

All parents are cordially invited to attend this even and the state competition the last weekend in April.

**Latest at the Library**

Several classes have come to the library to do research. Mr. Duvall’s 7th grade Social Studies classes are busy locating 150 facts about their African and Asian countries. Mr. Courtney’s 8th grade Social Studies class researched ethnic groups and their immigration to America. Mrs. Martin’s 7th grade Science classes just finished creating animal booklets while Mrs. Schooler’s 7th grade career class are creating PowerPoint presentations about a career they would like. With the Winter Olympics occurring this month, several classes worked on projects dealing with this topic. Mrs. Snow’s Social Studies class created PowerPoint presentations about countries that were in the Winter Olympics. Some of Mrs. Martin’s 8th grade students created posters that illustrated the science of the Winter Olympics sports and Mr. Skirvin’s P.E. classes wrote about an Olympic sport of their choice.

Congratulations to Mr. Kelley’s mass communication class. They won second place in the MLK web page contest and received a $50 gift certificate from Barnes and Noble’s Bookstore that they donated to the library. Check out the web page at http://www.mccsc.edu/~jcmslib/mlk/jackson.htm.

Voting for the Young Hoosier Book Award will be on April 12, 2002. Students who have read at least five of the 2001-2002 nominee titles will get a chance to vote for their favorite book and eat Pizza during the voting party. A list of the titles can be found at www.mccsc.edu/~jcmslib/yhb/yhbhome.htm or stop by the library and pick up a list.

We welcome your newsworthy items. Please e-mail contributions to plale@cs.indiana.edu.