

DATES TO REMEMBER:

APRIL 7-15
MAP Testing

WED., APRIL 13
Board of Education Mtg
Sundling Junior High

Wacky Wednesday:
Pajama Bottom Day

WED., APRIL 20
Go Green Day & Waste
Free Lunch

Wacky Wednesday:
Inside-Out Day

FRI., APRIL 22
Earth Day
NO SCHOOL

TUES., APRIL 26
Market Day Pick Up

WED., APRIL 27
Wacky Wednesday:
Crazy Hair Day

THURS., APRIL 28
Beg/Int Band Concert
Beg/Int Orchestra Concert

MAY 2-4
Teacher Appreciation
Week

WED., MAY 4
PTA Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Open House 7:00 p.m.

MAY 5-6
Teacher Institute Days
STUDENT NON-ATTENDANCE

Marion Jordan School
100 North Harrison St.
Palatine, IL 60067
Office: 847-991-5500
Absentee: 847-963-5501

Interim Principal
Jennifer Grosch

Assistant Principal
David Kerkemeyer

PTA Co-President
Mary Kay Aronson

PTA Co-President
Alison Silver

Editor
Beth Anderson
luddyandbeth@yahoo.com



Jordanaire



APRIL 2011

Presidents' Letter

The snow has melted, buds are forming on the trees and you can smell it in the air, spring has finally arrived, and with it the usual flurry of activity at our school!

The MJ PTA is already planning for the next school year. If you would like to be involved, now is the time. As we form and fill the commit-

tees for next year, we are always looking for a few more volunteers. We are a great group of parents who welcome new faces and ideas. Why not give it a try! Please feel free to give us a call with any questions you may have, we'd love to work with you!

The next PTA Meeting will be May 4th at 9:00 a.m. in the

Resource Center. Please bring along a friend and enjoy a cup of coffee.

Enjoy the beautiful weather!

Mary Kay Aronson
Alison Silver
MJ PTA Co-Presidents



Principal's Note

Spring is springing! While I believe the familiar phrase is spring has sprung, I find that although we are on the verge, it hasn't quite happened yet. Despite the yo-yo like fluctuation on the thermometer, there are some sure signs that it is right around the corner. In preparation of its full arrival, I would like to share a few things about what is happening in and around the school at this very busy time.

The installation of SMARTboards into some classrooms has begun. This technology

affords so many wonderful learning opportunities for our students. The staff is eager to continue to receive training opportunities to utilize the technology to its fullest potential. We are so very appreciative of your support and donations to continue our quest to outfit the school. With SMARTboards going into some, but not yet all classrooms, please know that all students will have access to their use. Mrs. Tomal is currently in the process of ordering some SMART tablets as well. I look forward to learn-

ing more about them along with the staff and students. Basically, they are interactive, portable white slates for use in multiple locations throughout the school.

With the advent of a new season, our children will soon be digging into drawers and closets to find shorts, t-shirts, and other spring apparel. Please help your child go through these items and determine what still fits as well as what falls into the category of

Continued on Page 2

Principal's Note *(continued from Page 1)*

school appropriate. We strive to keep an elementary atmosphere conducive to learning at Marion Jordan as far as the dress code. Shorts should hang to the place on your child's thigh where his/her middle finger touches when arms hang down against their sides. Shirts must have a sleeve/strap at least two fingers wide, and no midribs should be exposed. For additional specifics, please refer to the school handbook or call the school office for information.

We will soon begin the process of sectioning students into classrooms for next year. Section configurations and staffing decisions are still being made. You will have an opportunity to submit, in writing, any information that you feel will be helpful for us to know about your child as a learner. Please know that while we welcome your input, we

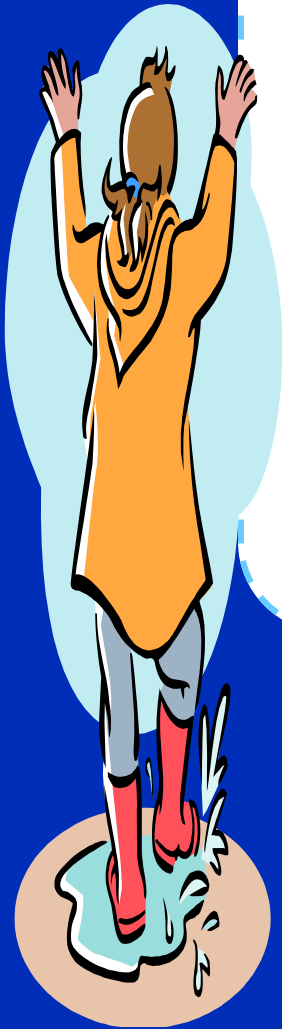
will not honor requests for specific classrooms, peer matches, or teachers. We thank you in advance for honoring this request.

Mr. Kerkemeyer and I have recently gone into classrooms to present a lesson on self-advocacy, making positive choices, and knowing what to do should you become aware of a less than positive situation. We were both very impressed with the students' ability to "talk the talk" as they dialogued with very thoughtful and appropriate responses. The next step of course, is for them to "walk the walk." In order to give students a venue for asking questions, sharing a compliment, relaying a concern, or simply making a comment, we have placed a box in the school office for that very purpose. The QC3 (Question, Comment, Concern, Compliment) box is located near the Blue Jay jars in the main

office. Students have been introduced to the purpose and the process for using this new system. Office staff will retrieve the submissions and address each one. Please ask your child about the box and encourage them to utilize it when they have a reason to do so. We hope that this will provide an additional opportunity for students to express themselves.

In conclusion, I would like to again extend an invitation for you to stop by, send an email, or call to introduce yourself if we have not yet had a chance to meet. I continue to enjoy getting to know more about your students and families, and look forward to some very exciting times together in the future.

Warmly,
Jennifer Grosch
Interim Principal



Unofficial School Board Election Results

With 100 percent of 88 precincts counted in the April 5 Consolidated Election for Community Consolidated School District 15's Board of Education, the Cook County Clerk's office has reported unofficial election results. The District congratulates

and welcomes newly elected board members Scott Herr, Gerard Iannuzzelli and Manjula Sriram.

On April 27, a Board of Education reorganization meeting is scheduled to pay tribute to outgoing Board members Gerald D. Chap-

man, James G. Ekeberg, and Sue Quinn; to seat the newly elected Board members; and to select new officers. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Walter R. Sundling Junior High, 1100 N. Smith Street, Palatine.

Fun Fair a Huge Success

Though the “Circus” has left town, we all had a great time and now have fun memories of the 2011 Marion Jordan Fun Fair. There were many people who came together to make this event possible, and we wanted to make sure to give a big “THANK YOU” for all of their hard work. Everything from the decorations, food, ticket orders, game volunteers, prize redemption and cake walk were handled by a great group of Committee Chairs. They all deserve a big

round of applause for their endless work to ensure a great event for all of our Marion Jordan families: Melissa McMahon, Deb Rudman, Christine Fiore, Rose Jusi, Jeana Butler, Beth Anderson, Alison Silver, Julie Kelley, Kelly Reynolds, Mary Kay Aronson and Sheila Polycn.

We would also like to thank Mr. Normann and the entire faculty for their help throughout the event. Last, but definitely not least, thanks to everyone who

helped by volunteering the night of the event and to those that made donations to the event for items such as baked goods for Cake Walk, soda, raffle basket items and monetary donations. It was truly an all around success because of you, our Marion Jordan families. It was a pleasure working with everyone on this event, and we can’t wait to see you all at next year’s Fun Fair.

Molly Plizga and Laura Ranieri
Fun Fair Co-Chairs

Children of All Ages Win Big at Fun Fair

Many of our families were big winners at this year’s Fun Fair. The following lucky attendees went home with beautiful baskets and fun silent auction items:

Kindergarten Basket—
Hanlon Family

Lego Baskets—Potter Family

Yellow Lego Box—Cox Family

2nd Grade Animal Baskets—
Fiore and White Families

3rd Grade Gardening Basket—Erickson Family

The Greatest Show on Earth Family Night Basket—
Murauskis Family

Mrs. Nelson’s 3rd/4th Grade Craft Basket—Murphy Family

Mrs. King’s Class Garden Basket—Kur Family

4th Grade Outdoor Fun Basket—Dolson Family

4th Grade Collapsible Basket—Divya

4th Grade Treasure Chest Basket—Andrea

5th Grade Outdoor Fun Basket—Zografos Family

Let’s Have a Picnic Basket—Mrs. Falkenberg

I’ll Bring the Wine to the Picnic Basket—Stavrou Family

High Wire Across Asia Basket—Buckley Family

Miss Morton’s Class High Wire Basket—Coy Family

Mr. Blaisdell’s Class Basket—Dionne Family

Boy Scout Basket—Arya

Scrapbooking Basket—
Robar Family

Girl Scout Basket—Gnaster Family

Salon Elite Basket—Mrs. Grosch

Inverness Park District Tea Basket—Ammelounx Family

5/6th Grade Spa Basket—
Payne Family

Silent Auction Winners

Lunch With the Principal—
Aronson Family

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Fun Fair Winners *(Continued from Page 3)*

Assistant Principal for a Day—Gilchrist Family

Building Engineer for a Day—Silver Family

Blue Jay Parking Spot—Aronson Family

MJ Studio Director for a Day—Aronson Family

Soccer with Mr. Duffy—White Family

Basketball with Mr. Duffy—Silver Family

Whiffle Ball with Mr. Duffy—Evenson Family

Lunch with Ms. Clark—Seitz Family

Art Project with Mrs. Swiatowy—Ammelounx Family

Party with a First Grade Teacher—Gruettner Family

Breakfast with Mrs. Kurtz—Gruettner Family

Lunch with Mrs. Cutts—Miceli Family

Lunch with Miss Mulligan—Miceli Family

Lunch with Mrs. King—Evenson Family

Lunch with Mrs. Hootman—Anderson Family

Pizza lunch with Mrs. Eckman and Mrs. Myers—Jays Family

Lunch with Mrs. Falkenberg—White Family

Donuts with the 5th Grade Teachers—Bansal Family

Mr. Duffy for a Day—Boberek Family

Arbonne Basket #1—Elias Family

Arbonne Basket #2—Fiore Family

Arlington Park Basket—Fiore Family

Kids In Action Gymnastics Party—Murphy Family

Color Me Mine Party—Anderson Family

Pump It Up Party—Miceli Family

D’Vine Wine Party—Konopka Family

White Sox Fanatic—White Family

Avalon Spa Basket—Miceli Family

W. Kim Membership—Zanardo Family

Shedd Aquarium VIP

Passes—Anderson Family

Beta Fish & Tank—Seitz Family

Family Fun Pack 1—Liataud Family

Family Fun Pack 2—Wood Family

Improv & Coopers Hawk #1—Anderson Family

Improv & Coopers Hawk #2—Tolliver Family

Hyatt Getaway—Bergin Family

Taste of Palatine—Streepy Family

Elements Therapeutic Massage—Mitzner Family

Flirty Girl Fitness—Michelson Family

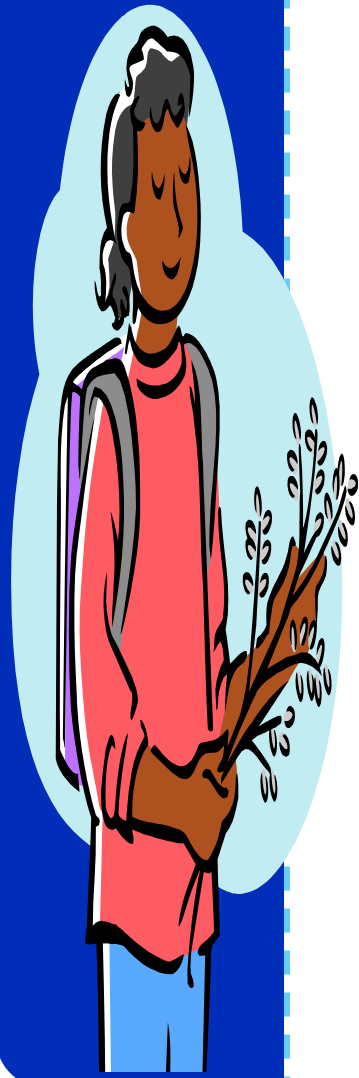
Wine ‘n More—Tolliver Family

Manna Card Basket—Streepy Family

Necklace #1—Tolliver Family

Necklace #2—Fiore Family

Salon Elite—Reynolds Family



Come See Students' Talent at MJ Art Fair

Coming this May during Open House, the Multi-purpose Room will be transformed into an art gallery showcasing the original masterpieces created by our students. Shirley Swiatowy, our art teacher, has been working in partnership with KidsArt Fairs on an art enrichment program that culminates in a one day event exhibiting student art.

"This art fair gets students and their families involved in art. When a child's artwork is

framed and displayed at home it makes the child more confident in their abilities and helps to build self-esteem! I hope that everyone will stop in to see it," says Mrs. Swiatowy.

The KidsArt Fair will be held during Open House on Wednesday, May 4 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. It will be an exciting event and volunteers are needed. **If you would like to volunteer please contact Mrs. Swiatowy at (847) 963-5510 or**

swiatows@ccsd15.net.

Student artwork will be framed and displayed in the Multi-purpose Room. Parents may choose to purchase the frame package for \$29.95 (plus tax) which is 50% off the suggested retail price. Marion Jordan school will keep a portion of the proceeds from the net frame sales to help fund the purchase of technology to enhance the art program.



PTA Sponsored Field Trips

New this year, the PTA is subsidizing field trips for grades 1-6 at the rate of \$14 per student. To date, the following field trips have been paid for, either wholly or in part, by the PTA:

- Mrs. Fredell's, Ms. Thornton's and Ms. Halloran's 1st grade classes to DuPage Children's Museum.
- Mrs. Nelson's 3rd/4th Grade class to the Metropolitan Theater to see "Frindle."
- Mrs. Falkenburg's, Mrs. Hootman's and Mrs. Eckman/Myers' 4th grade classes to the Metropolitan Theater to see "Frindle."
- Mrs. Davis' and Mrs. Harris' 5th grade classes to the Metropolitan Theater to see "The Diary of Anne Frank."
- Mr. Blaisdell's, Ms. Morton's and Ms. Smith's 6th

grade classes to the Metropolitan Theater to see "The Diary of Anne Frank."

We are excited to be able to provide these wonderful educational and cultural opportunities to our students and hope that they fully enjoy their experiences. Look for regular updates of the field trips we have sponsored in future editions of the Jordanaire, and stay tuned into what our students are doing at MJ.

Spring cleaning? The Environmental Awareness Committee is still collecting old athletic shoes for Nike's Reuse-a-Shoe program. Gently used non-athletic shoes are also being collected for Soles for Souls, a not-for-profit organization that will distribute them to poor people on a global basis. Shoes may be placed in the collection bin in the school lobby. The deadline for collecting shoes is May 13.

Wacky Wednesdays

Don't miss out on the fun and wacky Wednesdays coming up in April!

Wednesday, April 13
Pajama Bottom Day

Wednesday, April 20
Inside-Out Day
(wear your clothes inside out!)

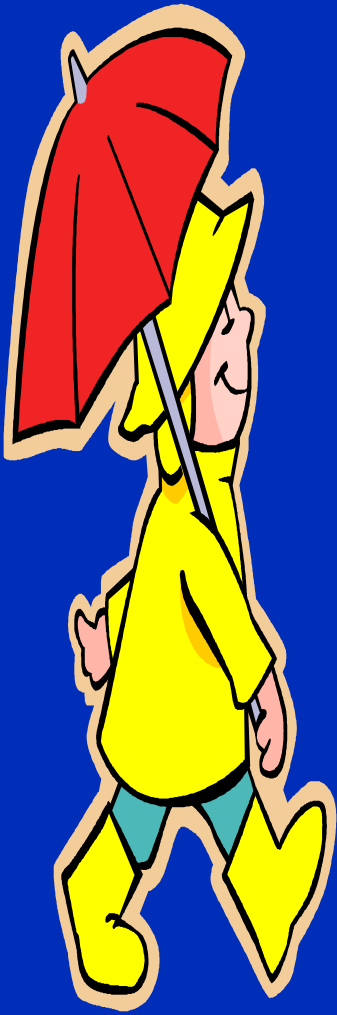
Wednesday, April 27
Crazy Hair Day

How can you participate? Just bring a monetary donation of your choice to your classroom each Wednesday in April and dress in the theme for that Wacky Wednesday!

It's simple, it's fun and best of all every cent raised from Wacky Wednesdays will go to SuperSibs, the charity selected by our graduating sixth graders as this year's

service project!

SuperSibs is an organization that provides support services for children whose siblings have cancer. For more information on SuperSibs, please visit their website at www.supersibs.org.



Market Day: Purchase with a Purpose

This April the PTA is participating in a dessert fundraiser with Market Day! Market Day offers high quality desserts at a reasonable price and with each purchase you will be contributing to our fundraising goals. As an organization, if we sell 100 or more desserts, our school will receive 30% of the profit.

This year Market Day is offering 10 desserts — including four exciting new flavors. Product descriptions and prices can be found on marketday.com.

Paper order forms should be returned to Marion Jordan by Wednesday, April 20 and orders can be placed online at www.marketday.com

until 11:00 p.m. Friday, April 22. Orders can be picked up in the multi-purpose room from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Perkins at 847-991-9513 or perkins11@comcast.net.

Topps for Tokyo Raises over \$4,000

Thanks to all who donated to the "Topps for Tokyo" Japan relief effort. We are proud to report that a grand total of \$4,001.27 was received to date. 100% of your donations will go to shelterbox.org to aid their relief efforts. ShelterBox is

a disaster relief charity that delivers boxes containing a 10-person tent and enough survival equipment to support families for six months.

Your generosity will make an immediate difference in the lives of at least 40 peo-

ple who might otherwise be without shelter, food and water.

Domo-Arigato!



MJ Teachers to Get the “Star Treatment” May 2-4

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2-4 and we’re rolling out the red carpet for the stars of Marion Jordan — our teachers! The PTA is planning some star studded Hollywood style festivities in their honor. We hope you will join us — in whatever ways you can — to show them how grateful we are for the work they do.

Monday, May 2—“War of the Roses” Flower Day: Students will bring

in one flower for their teachers (fresh or hand-made) and/or a favorite staff member. Let’s fill up their vases!

Tuesday, May 3—“Pretty in Pink” Favorite Color Day: Students should wear their teacher’s favorite color.

Wednesday, May 4—“Aladdin” Creativity/Wish List Day: Students can create a card, picture, poem or favorite memory for

their teachers and, if they desire, bring in an item from the teacher’s classroom wish list.

Teachers’ favorite colors will be posted in the classroom and the wish list is available online at mjpta.org.

If you have any questions, or would like to help, please call Beth Anderson (847) 991-2029, Min Goodwin (847) 963-8079 or Julie Pope (847) 963-0307.

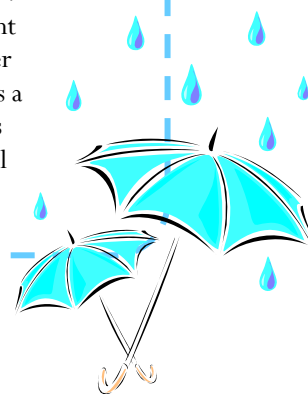
Used Instrument Drive

Spring has finally arrived and as you are doing your spring-cleaning we have a great opportunity for you to get rid of those instruments collecting dust!

We are now accepting donations of the following band or orchestra instruments in working or fixable condition:

- Flutes
- Oboes
- Clarinets
- Bass Clarinets
- Alto Saxophones
- Tenor Saxophones
- Baritone Saxophones
- Bassoons
- Trumpets
- French Horns (Single or Double)
- Trombones
- Baritones/Euphoniums
- Tubas
- Any percussion equipment
- Violins
- Violas
- Cellos
- Bases
- Guitars

If you have an instrument not on this list please contact your school band, orchestra or music teacher to see if it can be used. Upon evaluation of instrument value, you will receive a letter from the district to be used as a tax deduction. Your school’s band or orchestra teacher will accept instrument donations.



Camp Invention Coming this Summer

This summer there is an exciting scientific journey available for students entering grades 1-6. It is Camp Invention, a week long program that allows children the opportunity to investigate the world of science and to explore their imaginations. The activi-

ties students will do this year involve cracking codes, the science of bouncy balls, innovative animals, high energy game challenges, and transformative.

The program will be held at Frank C. Whiteley School June

20-24. Each day camp will run from 8:30am-3:30pm. If you would like to find out more about Camp Invention, please visit the website at campinvention.org or contact Allison Bartnicke at bartnica@ccsd15.net.

Parent Ed—Transition to Middle School

As we come nearer to the close of another school year, many of our 6th graders and their families are preparing for a move up to middle school. With so many new experiences, questions and concerns ahead of them, we thought we would highlight some websites that offer tips and advice on the transition to middle school as well as other helpful information.

Helpful Resources:

Scholastic Inc. – their Parent/Family Life section offers information on relevant topics from preK - 12
<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=84>

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=2157>

The National Middle School Association
<http://www.nmsa.org/Publications/WebExclusive/HelpfulHints/tabid/649/Default.aspx>

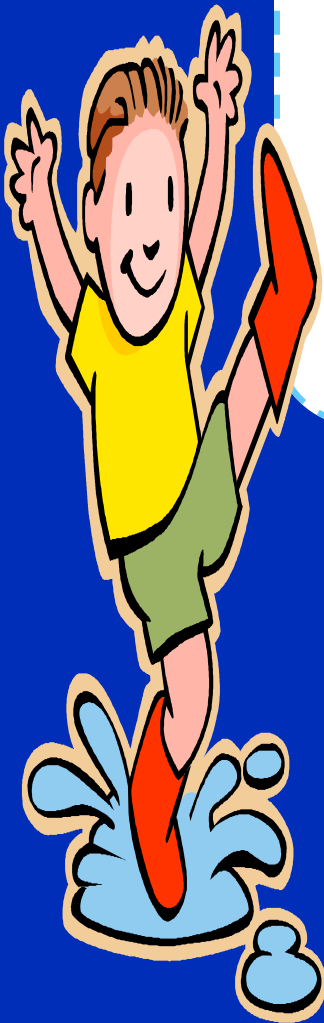
<http://www.schoolfamily.com/middle-school>

Great Schools Inc. – offers information on relevant topics from preK - 12
<http://www.greatschools.net/LD/managing/smoothing-your-childs-transition-to-middle-school.gs?content=980>

http://www.math-and-reading-help-for-kids.org/articles/Helping>Your_Child_Prepare_for_Junior_High_School.html

We hope you find the information provided on these websites helpful.

Every year **Marci Morrison, the school social work specialist for Sundling Junior High**, offers a **parenting program** called Systematic Training in Effective Parenting (or S.T.E.P.) for the parents of Sundling students. The class typically begins in mid-October and is held one night a week for six weeks. Look for information about the S.T.E.P. program to be released early in the 2010-2011 school year (see attachment at the back of this Jordanaire).



BOOK FAIR CARNIVAL Your Ticket to Read!

COMING IN MAY...

WE'RE PASSING OUR PROFITS ON TO YOU!
STOCK UP ON SUMMER READING AT OUR
BUY-ONE-GET-ONE-FREE
SPRING BOOK FAIR!

MAY 16TH THROUGH MAY 20TH

THE BOOK FAIR WILL BE OPEN DURING OUR
BINGO NIGHT SPRING FAMILY EVENT AND
MOMS AND MUFFINS

Kudos

To **Molly Plizga** and **Laura Ranieri**, thank you, thank you, thank you for a Fun Fair that was three rings of fun! We appreciate the countless hours you put into planning and executing this event for our MJ families. A great time was had by all!

Kudos to **Rose Jusi** and **Christine Fiore** for coordinating the basket raffle and silent auction during the Fun Fair. We are so thankful for the time you spent securing each and every donation and the money raised will help the PTA continue to provide worthwhile events for our families and students.

Thanks to our **Room Parents** for coordinating and putting together the beautiful classroom

baskets for the Fun Fair, and to the families who so generously donated items for the baskets.

Kudos to **Sarah Borkowski** for coordinating the design and production of the 2010-11 yearbook. We can't wait to see it in print!

A big thank you to our nominating committee: **Deb Rudman, Julie O'Hara, Gina Stavrou,Carolynn Burk, Julie Pope, Sara Borkowski** and **Raeann Shedd** for filling the slate for our 2011-12 board positions.

Kudos to sixth grader **Scott V.**, and fifth graders **Malik B.** and **Jovan E.**, members of the Blue Jays Special Olympics basketball "T" team. The team won the

silver medal at sectionals, qualifying them to compete at the State Basketball Tournament March 11, 12 and 13 at Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University. Way to go Blue Jays!

Kudos to MJ 6th grader, **Janet K.** for earning a perfect performance medal for her clarinet solo at the Illinois Grade School Music Association's annual Solo and Ensemble Contest, held February 12.

And, a special congratulations to 4th grade teacher, **Mrs. Myers** on the birth of her daughter Emma on March 31!

MJ Volunteer of the Year

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

We are so fortunate to have so many dedicated and generous parent volunteers at Marion Jordan. It's time once again to present our Volunteer of the Year award and as always, it's so

hard to pick just one person!

If there's someone you feel has gone above and beyond with their volunteer activities and you'd like to nominate him/her for Volunteer of the Year, please email your nomination to Jeff Perkins at perkins11@comcast.net.

Marion Jordan's Volunteer of the Year will be recognized at the Northwest Suburban Council PTA "Spring Fling" and meeting on May 16.

Our final PTA Meeting of the Year is on Wednesday, May 4 at 9:00 a.m.

We'll be voting in our new officers for 2011-12 and recognizing the 6th Grade Parents leaving Marion Jordan.

Hope to see you there!



Coming at the Beginning of the 2011-12 School Year:

Parenting—A Challenging Job QUESTIONS ABOUT PARENTING SKILLS? YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE

The SYSTEMATIC TRAINING IN EFFECTIVE PARENTING (S.T.E.P.) TEEN PROGRAM CAN HELP YOU:

- Communicate more effectively with your teenager
- Help your teen learn to cooperate
- Help you apply natural and logical consequences
- Create a more satisfying and productive relationship with your children

There will be a nominal fee per family for the book for this six-session program. You will find the time well spent.

DATES: Beginning in the middle of October, usually on Mondays.
Dates will be determined by summer.

TIME: TBA

LOCATION: Walter R. Sundling Junior High School

INSTRUCTOR: Marci Morrison
School Social Work Specialist
847-963-3737