



Volume 1, Issue 2

THE HUSKY HOWL



Jackson County Central School District Newsletter



From The Superintendent's Desk

We hope you enjoy this second edition of our Jackson County Central School District Newsletter, *The Husky Howl*. The idea behind this issue is to let you know what will be going on in the school district from January through May of 2009. We have articles from Pleasantview and Riverside Elementary Schools, JCC Middle School, JCC High School, and the school district at-large.

We've also enclosed a copy of the Minnesota Department of Education's testing schedule for the rest of the school year. This is so that parents have a good working knowledge of when their children will be taking the various state tests that are required by MDE.

As you read this, the winter vacation from school is winding down and students are expecting to return to school on Monday, January 5th. I hope the holiday season has been relaxing and enjoyable for all of the people living within the friendly confines of JCC.

I'd like to thank the following staff members for contributing articles to this issue: Tracy Steiner, Melissa Ahlschlager, Rhonda Stewart, Kelly Benson, Angie Brinkman, Kari Wilkinson, Sam Marek, Larry Traetow, and Jim Hirman.

JCC Eyes The Future

The Jackson County Central School District will be starting off the New Year by looking ahead to the future! In a series of three meetings in January, JCC will be looking at where it wants to be five years from now, and making goals and plans to get there.

In order to do this, we will have three meetings to talk about what we want our schools' future to look like in five years. The first meeting will be Monday, January 19th. This meeting will involve all school district staff which includes all teachers, secretaries, paraprofessionals, cooks, custodians, bus drivers and administrators. It will take place from 7:45 – 9:15 am that morning. We will have a district-wide two-hour late start on Monday, January 19th to allow for this to happen.

The next meeting will also be Monday, January 19th. All of the communities that make up JCC will be invited to attend this meeting at the JCC High School Commons for a free supper from 5:30-6:30 pm followed by a 90-minute meeting to discuss the future needs of the school district from the communities' perspective. We will have a free bus leaving JCC Middle School in Lakefield at 5:15 pm and returning from Jackson at 8 pm that night. We'll also be offering free daycare from 5:30 – 8:00 pm for the parents of younger children. The idea behind this is for all people in our school district to be able to attend and give us their opinions on the future of our school district.

The final meeting will take place on Monday, January 26th. This



JCC students and parents enjoying some of the many activities our schools have to offer.

will be the regular 7:00 pm JCC School Board meeting for the board members to go over all of the previous two meetings' comments, suggestions, and goals. The Board will then synthesize all of this information with their own perspectives and create a clear vision of our five-year plan to move into a very bright future! We encourage all parents, business leaders, and community members to attend.

The district would like to thank the following staff members who are spear-heading this series of meetings. They are Larry Traetow, Pleasantview Elementary Principal and JCC Activities Director; Scott McClure, School Board Vice-Chair; Melissa Ahlschlager, Middle School Counselor; Kris Heutinck, Riverside Elementary Special Education Teacher; Tamie Egge, High School Spanish Teacher; and Todd Meyer, JCC Superintendent.

See reverse side for JCC Community Education Newsletter



WINTER WEATHER TIME

It's definitely that time of year again to check the evening weather forecasts to be ready for the next morning's cold and blustery climate. Back on November 11th, we chose to go with a regular school day when we should have gone with a two-hour late start. Mistakes do happen, I apologize, and I promise to make better decisions in the future.

When inclement weather does come again, and it will, please be listening to one of your local radio stations: KKOJ/KRAQ, KWOA, KFMC, KDOM, KICD, KUOO, or KILR. The other option you might want to consider is to check the area TV stations, which include: WCCO - 4, KSTP - 5, KARE - 11, and KSFY -13.

The winter weather plan is to make the call for late starts or no school by 6:30 a.m. and then call all of the above stations. They will then get those announcements on the air as soon as they feel they can.

Please remember we have a very large school district measuring over 442 square miles (30th largest in the state.) I've been told that there have been numerous times in the past when part of the county has different weather conditions from other parts. I'm sure that will happen again in our future. We will do our best to make sure we have a very good sense of what is going on throughout the whole county when making the winter weather decisions. To do this, I make phone calls to several people around the county, as well as numerous area superintendents. I'm in contact with the National Weather Service and the State and county road departments.

Always know that parents have the right to keep their child at home if they feel winter travel conditions are unsafe. Please know, we always have the best interests of our students at heart and we know you do as well.



NEW FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Second Semester at JCC High

Second semester will soon be upon us. We are encouraging all students to take a look at their second semester schedule. Beginning in January, we will be completing the master schedule for 2nd semester. If students have a need to change their schedule we will be beginning that process then. We will work to see that each student has the opportunity to enroll in the courses that they select without any conflicts.

If you have any questions or concerns about the schedule of classes for 2nd semester, please contact the main office.

PSEO

Any Junior or Senior students interested in taking PSEO classes at MNWest second semester must fill out the application forms and turn those into the main office as soon as possible. The MNWest Spring term begins the second week of January and students must be registered for classes before the term begins.

Math League Team in Second Place

The 2008 – 2009 Math League season is off to a good start at JCC. The team consists of seniors, Hilary Geesman, Brittany Deel, Alyssa Nelson, Ann Chang, and Abraham Leon; juniors, Andrew Paulson and Ike Pohlman; sophomore Kinbrae Bezdicek; and freshman Jacob Peterson.

JCC is currently in second place in our region. The other teams in our region are Luverne, Adrian and Fulda. With the help of two of our foreign exchange students, JCC looks to have a successful season.

K-12 Math Curriculum

The JCC Math Department (K – 12) is currently in the curriculum cycle phase of adopting new materials for next fall.

With the new Minnesota standards and the MCA II assessment requirements, it is extremely important that we carefully review the many textbooks and supplemental materials to find what will best help our students meet these requirements.

In November, the Staff Development Committee sent a team of six math teachers to the National Council for Teachers of Math Regional Math Conference in search of new instructional and best practice strategies, as well as, to find material still needed to meet the Minnesota standards.

Besides new curriculum, the math department is excited about implementing the Promethean ActivStudio Boards. They not only serve as a demonstration and investigation tool to enhance learning, but it also increases student interest and class participation.

Drama Notes

The JCC High School Drama Department just finished a successful production of Hansel and Gretel in November. Sixteen actors and six technical/stage crew presented the story of the old fairy tale with a new twist; instead of eating children, the evil witch turned them into enchanted pieces of furniture. Gretel, with an assist from Hansel, a talking door, and a purr-fectly marvelous cat, worked to free the children from the magic spell. Hilary Geesman and Sam Hendrickson played Gretel and Hansel, while Kelsey Hakes was the witch.

Right before Christmas break, auditions were held for the next production of the One Act Contest Play. This play is done for competition. The last three years, JCC has been in the top 3 at subsections, placing 2nd in 2007 and advancing to the section contest. This year's students will work to continue that level of excellence.



NEWS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL



JCC students, Kyle Kapplinger, Rodney Phifer, Kevin Majerus and Lauren Buhr, taking part in kids voting process in November.

Over 200 students and parents enjoyed a night of dodgeball and dancing at the middle school Friday, November 21st. Tobacco's Target and the JCC Middle School co-sponsored the event that focused on tobacco advertising aimed at youth.

After several rounds of dodgeball, the audience was involved in a Family Feud-style game show about tobacco statistics. Prizes were given to many participants. Pizza, subs, and gallons of pop were consumed throughout the night. Students were asked to bring in food items for the food shelf in exchange for a decreased admittance into the dance.

A visual demonstration was made in the auditorium where 50 chairs were blocked off to show how many people die from a tobacco-related illnesses over the 5-hour time frame of the event. 338 glow sticks were handed out to symbolize the number of tobacco ads in both the Jackson and Lakefield communities.

The event was enjoyed by middle school students, staff and parents. Thank you to everyone that helped make this event so successful.



JCC Middle School parents playing dodgeball against their kids.



Middle school students playing dodgeball.

Bringing History To Our Students

History Day is here again. We are in preparation for our third annual History Day competition at JCC Middle School. Our veteran seventh graders have been working diligently since October in preparation for their local event on February 20, 2009, while the rookie sixth graders are starting to hear more and more about it and will be starting their projects after our winter break.

History Day is an exciting co-curricular program that encourages young people to explore a historical subject related to an annual theme. The 2009 theme is "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies". Students are invited to shine a light on a small part of an individual's life and show the impact they had on our lives. Seventh graders have chosen topics ranging from the Wright Brothers to Nicola Tesla to Jackie Robinson.

Students make history come alive as their research leads to imaginative exhibits, original performances, informative documentaries and historical research papers. Each category is then divided into two divisions, junior (6th - 8th grade) and senior (9th - 12th) division. All JCC students will be participating in the junior level.

Each individual and group is asked to find numerous primary and secondary documents from which to base their research. Our students have discovered original diaries and government documents, talked with historians and libraries, and visited historic sites throughout their research. History Day demonstrates the idea that students learn history when they do history.

JCC Middle School Principal Kari Wilkinson speaks at November's Veteran's Day program.



History Day is a highly regarded national academic challenge - more than 700,000 students participated nationwide. It is also the fastest growing social studies enrichment program in Minnesota with over 25,000 students participating statewide last year. In the past two years numerous JCC students have participated and been successful on a regional and state level.

We hope this year will be no different. Our seventh grade students will be judged on February 20 by a group of local historians, retired teachers, and history buffs. Our sixth graders will be judged on March 6 by a similar group of judges. Students chosen by our local judges will then advance to the regional event in Marshall, MN on March 31, 2009. Students chosen by regional judges will then advance to the state event in April at the University of Minnesota. At the state event a select few of Minnesota students will be invited to participate at the national event in July at the University of Maryland in Washington D.C. JCC has never advanced a student to the national competition but we are making improvements to our program each year in hopes to eventually advance a student to the national competition.

We hope to see everyone on either February 20 or March 6, 2009 to support the JCC students at our local event and in their first step through History Day competition.



Isaiah Croat researching a project on school computer.

Study Buddies

Middle School students have a great opportunity to get extra help with school work by attending Study Buddies on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

The learning of goal-setting and time management skills along with generally getting more organized helps the students complete their work.

The students look forward to seeing high school students Tyler Bale, Joey Schmidt and Jon Troe, who volunteer their time to be friends and help with assignments. Their great help is a plus for the program. Adult volunteers Marless Cuperus, Andrea Rossow, and Ron Hummel are dedicated helpers with skills that are valuable to the program.

As a side activity, students earn red paper slips by answering the daily trivia questions and by showing exceptional effort. This project encourages planning, saving and making good choices. One of Study Buddies' mottos is: ***Do your best.....all day...every day.***



JCC students, Tanner Post, Jason Vongsavanh, Caitlyn Stevens and Joseph Boyer, helping bag meals for "Kids Against Hunger Day" this fall.

New Students at JCC Middle School

JCC Middle School is pleased with our enrollment this year. This year, the middle school has 16 new students in grades 6-8. We are excited to have so many new faces in our building. We have students from all over the United States who have moved to the Jackson/Lakefield area and are able to be part of JCC Schools." Below is a list what some of our students like so far about being here:

Soham Patel, Jersey City, NJ - "There is no dress code."

Alexa Culbert, Caro, MI - "All the people who work here are a lot nicer."

Kelsey Thorne, Blaine, MN- "I love everything here. Everyone is nicer, and the food is better, and stuff like that."

Samantha Swift, Comfrey, MN - "It's a lot bigger than my old school, where I had 12 kids in my class or less, so there are a lot more opportunities here."

Ryley Cotton-Des Moines, IA "I really like the food, and I really like longer time in the classes I like." "Back at my old school, you couldn't do anything until 8th grade. Here we get to do a lot of stuff in 7th grade."

Darnell Taylor-Breck, Immanuel, Lakefield, MN- "I have more friends here than my previous school. I feel like I'm learning more."

Vanessa Ortiz, Worthington, MN- "I've met a lot of new friends and the teachers are nice."

Rodney Phifer, Harris-Lake Park, IA - "All the kids here are nice and they respect each other."

Sean Thorne, Blaine, MN- "I like everything!"

Devin Phaly, Sargent Bluff, IA - "The teachers are really nice and so is the principal."

Caleb Wadsworth, Worthington, MN- "I like math a lot because that's always been my best subject. There are not as many fights here at JCC."

Bryan Wadsworth, Worthington, MN- "The lockers are different. You don't have to share. I've also met a lot of new people."

Cheyenne Edwards, Round Lake, MN- "It's bigger, so there are more friends." "The homework is easier."

Derek Somnis, Immanuel, Lakefield, MN "It's fun, and you get to do a few more things than Elementary, and the food is better here."

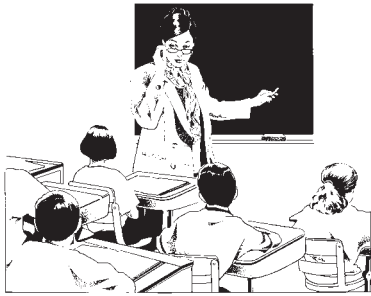
Adrian Espinoza, Snyder, TX- "I like all my new friends and my nice teachers."

Maximino Barrera, Windom, MN- "The teachers are nicer and everything and I have less homework."



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pleasantview and Riverside students look forward to a fun and busy winter and spring. We have listed some of the highlights below, but also want to remind parents that we will celebrate Winter Wonder Week the last week of January, and we will be sending students to the writing conference this spring. Additionally, Pleasantview will host their field day in May and Riverside will have their annual softball game versus the fifth graders. We look forward to these events and much more so keep your eyes peeled for more good things to come.



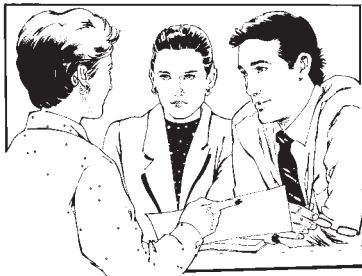
Spring Concerts

Spring concerts are slated for both schools. Kindergarten and first grade will perform on Friday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the JCC Fine Arts Center. Riverside fourth and fifth graders will perform on Friday, May 15 in the JCC Fine Arts Center. Pleasantview will have its spring concert on Wednesday, May 20 at 1:00 PM at the JCC Middle School. They will also host Grandparents Day following the concert. Riverside will host Grandparents Day on Friday, May 1st.



Late Winter Conferences

January 22 is the end of the second quarter and elementary report cards will be going home on February 4. Late winter conferences are scheduled for February 25 and 26. Sign up will be held the same as fall conferences with the sheets being available outside the office beginning the middle of January. These conferences are a great way for parents to touch base with teachers to see student growth and make a plan for the remainder of the school year.



JCC Science Fair

You are invited to join the JCC Elementary Science Fair! All 3rd – 5th grade students are invited to do a Science Fair Project. These projects will be judged Thursday Feb 26 and be open for public viewing that night at conferences from 6 – 7 pm. Winners will advance to the Regional contest in Mankato on Saturday May 2nd. This is a great opportunity for Riverside and Pleasantview students! Science Fair Projects encourage students to be curious, to identify problems that exist, and to find creative solutions to challenges in life.



Kindergarten Round-Up

We anxiously await our new crop of kindergarten students this spring. Riverside Elementary will host Kindergarten Round-Up on Monday, March 30 at 6:30 PM. Pleasantview Elementary will host Round-Up on Tuesday, March 31 at 6:30. This is a great time for parents to bring their kindergartener to school to meet the teacher and review some of the activities for the coming year.



Spring Testing

Students in grades 3 – 5 will be taking the MCA tests beginning in late April. Students will take parts 1 and 2 of the reading test on April 22, and parts 3 and 4 on April 23. Beginning April 28, they will take parts 1 and 2 of the math test. On April 29, they will take parts 3 and 4 of the math test. Monday, May 4 will be the date of the 5th grade MCA science test.



Administration Office

- Todd Meyer – Superintendent of Schools
- Jim Hoffbeck – Business Manager
- Brian Cook – Accountant
- Jan Hansen – Supt’s Administrative Assistant

- Shirley Handzus – District Technology Coordinator
- Lolly Kaderabek-Food Service Director
- Jim Vanderveen-Transportation Director
- Mark Steffen-Building and Grounds Director
- Susan Voehl –District School Nurse

TESTING SCHEDULE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009

FEBRUARY 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13

February 3: Mathematics BST Retests
February 4: Reading BST Retests

Make-Up Date:

February 10: Mathematics and Reading BST Retests
 February 11: Mathematics and Reading BST Retests

MARCH 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

March 9 – March 27: Testing Window for ELL Tests

APRIL 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

MAY 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

March 30 – May 1: Testing Window for Reading and Mathematics MTAS

March 30 – May 22: Testing Window for Science MTAS

March 31: BST Seniors Only Written Composition Retest

April 1: Grade 12 Mathematics BST Retest

April 2: Grade 12 Reading BST Retest

Make-Up Dates:

April 3: Mathematics and Reading BST Retests

April 7: BST Written Composition Retest

April 8: Mathematics and Reading BST Retests

April 13 – May 1: Testing Window for MCA-II & MTELL

April 14: Segments 1 & 2 for Grade 10 Reading and Grade 11 Mathematics

April 15: Segments 3 & 4 of Grade 10 Reading and Grade 11 Mathematics

Districts must test during Week 1 on specified dates if in session.

April 22: Segments 1 & 2 of Grade 10 Reading and Grade 11 Mathematics

April 23: Segments 3 & 4 of Grade 10 Reading and Grade 11 Mathematics

Districts must test Week 2 on specified dates if not in session Week 1. Week 1 testing districts may use Week 2 for make-ups.

April 28: Segments 1 & 2 for Grade 10 Reading and Grade 11 Mathematics

April 29: Segments 3 & 4 of Grade 10 Reading and Grade 11 Mathematics

Districts must test Week 3 on specified dates if not in session during Week 1 or Week 2. Week 1 and Week 2 testing districts may use Week 3 for make-ups.

April 14: Grade 9 GRAD Written Composition

Make-Up Date:

April 22: Grade 9 GRAD Written Composition

April 27 – May 22: Testing Window for MCA-II Science (Grades 5, 8 & High School)

JULY 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

July 21: Grades 10 – 12 GRAD & BST Written Composition Retests

July 22: Mathematics BST Retest

July 23: Reading BST Retest

Make-Up Date:

July 24 : BST (Reading, Mathematics, Writing) and GRAD (Writing) Retests



May 14, 2008

TESTING SCHEDULE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009

February 3: Mathematics BST Retest

- Students who are eligible to take the BST and who have not yet passed the Mathematics BST test.
- February 10: Make-up date for Math and Reading BSTs.

February 4: Reading BST Retest

- Students who are eligible to take the BST and who have not yet passed the Reading BST test.
- February 11: Make-up date for Math and Reading BSTs.

March 9 – March 27: Testing Window for ELL Tests

- Tests of reading, writing, listening & speaking language proficiency for ELLs.

March 30 – May 1: Testing Window for Reading and Mathematics MTAS

March 30 – May 22: Testing Window for Science MTAS

- MTAS is an alternate assessment for special education students.

March 31: BST Seniors Only Written Composition Retest

- Students in eligible for the BST who have not yet passed the BST Written Composition.
- Use prompt dated “March 31”
- April 7: Make-up date for Written Composition Retests. Use Prompt dated “April 7”

April 1: Mathematics BST Retest

- Students who are eligible to take the BST and who have not yet passed the Mathematics BST test.
- April 3: Make-up date for Math and Reading BSTs.

April 2: Reading BST Retest

- Students who are eligible to take the BST and who have not yet passed the Reading BST test.
- April 8: Make-up date for Math and Reading BSTs.

April 13 – May 1: Testing Window for MCA-II & MTELL

- MTELL is an online test of mathematics for ELLs. It **will continue pending federal approval.**
- Districts set their testing schedule within the window, but must adhere to the following conditions:
 - Districts specify in the ordering window when they will administer each MCA-II segment in each grade, except Grades 10 and 11 which have assigned dates.
 - All schools in the district test on the same day for a given grade/subject/segment (MCA-II).
 - Grade 9 GRAD Written Composition
 - April 14: Use Prompt dated “April 14”

- April 22 (make-up): Use Prompt dated “April 22”
- Grade 10 Reading and Grade 11 Mathematics MCA-II/GRAD
 - April 14: Segments 1 and 2
 - April 15: Segments 3 and 4
 - April 22: Segments 1 and 2 (make-up*)
 - April 23: Segments 3 and 4 (make-up*)
 - April 28: Segments 1 and 2 (make-up*)
 - April 29: Segments 3 and 4 (make-up*)
- All testing, including make-ups, for grades 3-8 is to be completed by May 1.
 - *Make-up dates for grades 10 and 11 are assigned as indicated above. **For make ups, if necessary districts do have the option of administering segments 1 – 4 in a day using one of the designated make-up dates.**
- The district and its schools follow MDE test administration principles, rules and guidelines to ensure the security and integrity of the tests.
- Districts must return scorable MCA-II materials no later than May 6, 2009.

Note: Tornado Drill Day and Take Your Child to Work Day are tentatively April 23, 2009.

Grades 10 and 11 MCA-II tests segments can be given only on the dates indicated.

April 27 – May 22: Testing Window for Science MCA - II (Grades 5, 8 & High School)

- Science is an online test
- The high school test will assess life science and is taken by students in grades 10, 11, or 12 who have completed the majority of their instruction in the life science standards.

July 21: Grades 10 – 12 GRAD & BST Written Composition Retests

- Students in Grades 10 – 12 who have not yet passed the GRAD & BST Written Composition. Use prompt dated “July 21.”

July 22: Mathematics BST Retest

July 23: Reading BST Retest

- Students who are eligible to take the BST and who have not yet passed the Mathematics or Reading BST.

July 24: Make-up date for any of the tests.

BST & GRAD Written Composition can be given only on the dates indicated.

Note: Any test with BST or GRAD in the title is part of the Minnesota Graduation Requirements.

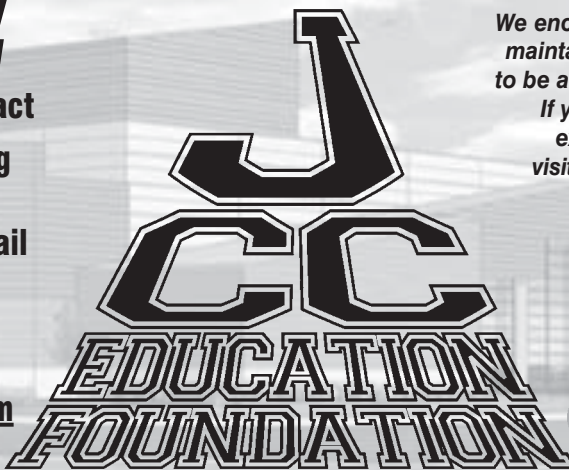
HELP!

If you know your class contact or the individual maintaining contact information on your classmates or any class email or call now.

Call: 507-847-3608 or

Email:

info@jcceducationfoundation.com



COMMENTS – SUGGESTIONS

We encourage your input as to ways we can maintain or improve your site. We want this to be a valuable resource for our graduates.

If you have used the site in the past and experienced some frustration with this visit please let us know. We are eager to continually improve the site.

**Send Us Your
Class Representative
Current Contact**

Serving the communities of Sioux Valley • Lakefield • Jackson
1128 North Highway • P.O. Box 119 • Jackson, MN 56143 • (507) 847-3608

www.jcceducationfoundation.com

Web Site for Alumni Connections...

Last year the JCC Education Foundation launched a new web site for the benefit of alumni and former educators, district employees and administration. The site would provide contact information, an easy means of staying in touch with classmates and friends, posting of upcoming events and other hometown or special activities.

Apologetically we regret that our site had several operational glitches initially that were identified and corrected. These may have been frustrating for some of you and dampened your interest to continue using the site.

Since then we have worked closely with our web site design team to correct the deficiencies and added Mary Bezdicek, a member of the JCC Education Foundation Board and the JCC School Board, to act as site administrator. Mary will be responding to emails, authorizing placement of information, adding news items and working with alumni class representatives, those who are responsible for maintaining contact information on their classmates.

Each class will benefit from the site by using it for their respective class communications. This could include special events or other items of interest to their contemporaries.

**Register
Now!**

The goal of the foundation is to have all graduating members from Sioux Valley, Lakefield and Jackson listed on the site, together with former faculty, district employees and administrators.

www.jcceducationfoundation.com