



That 70's HoCo

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Lost for Love

Managing a healthy social life in high school is intimidating at best and soul-crushing at worst. When dating is added into the mix, things can get really complicated. **Page 9**

Strengthening

Not everyone expects to find friendship and fulfillment within a suicide prevention program, but that is exactly what has happened for the students involved in JA's Sources of Strength club. **Page 12**



That 70's HoCo

By: Hannah Strümpher

Music blasts through the speakers as students pack the dance floor for JA's annual Homecoming. This year's "That 70's Hoco!" was absolutely bustling with people dancing for hours and crowding the games.

Students had several things to say about the whirlwind of a night. Freshman Abby Renner shares her thoughts on the games offered in



the commons during the dance.

"It went above and beyond," stated Renner. "I did not expect to see an air-hockey table, ping-pong and arcade games honestly, and I was over there a lot, either messing with friends or just playing and having fun."

Before October 7, the Student Government worked incredibly hard for months to make this Homecoming one to remember. Many other fun events were planned to go with the dance and build up to the date.

"We have Powderpuff, Peach Fuzz, Movie Night, and there's a Fall Fest parade," said Mark Leoni, a senior and president of Student Government. "[The dance] is meant to be this



fun, retro, very bright colors, lots of lights, throwback."

There were a few hurdles Student Government had to overcome before the dance, but everything was sorted out in the end and they were able to pull off an amazing dance.

"It was mostly just committees not talking to each other and discussing things with each other, but when people do that, then after that it's pretty good," mentioned Eva Richling, a sophomore in Student Government.

Lots of people lined up to get pictures from the photo booth at the dance, which allowed them to get together with their friends to capture the memory of the night.

"I love the photo booth. I think it's so much fun," remarked sophomore Claire Pillow. "You get to go in and take pictures with friends and it's like a remembrance kind of thing. You just have, like, this little token almost from it and



so it's really fun because you don't have to pay for it and it's not an exclusive kind of thing and anyone could do it."

Inside the commons, there was a ping-pong table, an air-hockey table, and two arcade games provided to entertain those not on the dance floor.

"They were a good addition because if you don't like dancing or anything of that sort, you could always go back to the ping-pong tables and all that ... they were a nice addition," mentioned Shaelee Torres, a senior.

The dance floor was the main attraction, however. It was packed with people the entire night while students came and went as they pleased.

"The dance floor was definitely the most popular, never once looking empty throughout the whole of Homecoming," stated Renner.

"That 70's Hoco!" was truly a success and allowed people to have fun, whether it was indoors playing games, outside on the dance floor, or even just talking and hanging out with friends.

"Thank you Student Government. I think it's really cool and the school has been doing a really great job organizing these events and making it pretty available to people, including middle school with it so that it's not just a high school event," stated Pillow. "Thanks to everyone who ran it."



Spirited

By: Gianna Gagliano

The spike of the volleyballs, the cheer of the crowd after a touchdown, and the unique spirit days all marked the beginning of the 2023 Homecoming Week. During this exciting week, the school was adorned with creative posters, colorful ribbons, and friendly rivalries. This event allowed the community of Jefferson Academy to unite by celebrating an ongoing tradition that evoked excitement from the entire school.

Throughout the week, spirit days provided an excellent opportunity for the staff and students of JA to show off their school pride through themed dress-up days. These themes included: Pajama, Barbie Ken, 'Merica, Rhyme without Reason, and Decades Day. With each day being dedicated to a new, fun theme, students and staff were able to unite with their peers in a very exciting way.

"I thought the spirit days over homecoming week are always fun," said senior Mathew Bernardy, "It gives the school more of a fun environment leading up to homecoming. Although

some of the spirit days were a little tough to dress up for, it was really cool to see what people came up with for outfits."

With the spirit days came the highly anticipated Powderpuff football game, Peach-Fuzz volleyball game, and boy's cheerleading. This year's Powderpuff game featured the junior vs. the senior class, with a special halftime performance by the Powderpuff cheerleaders. This game ended in a dominant win for the juniors. Similarly, Peachfuzz also featured a fixture between the junior and senior classes, also resulting in a junior win. In this, students were able to break traditional gender roles while showcasing their athleticism in a fun, competitive way.

"I think that while we did lose the Powderpuff and Peachfuzz game, all participants had an amazing time," remarked senior Tyler Fix.

"I can speak for my friends that the powderpuff cheerleading was something that we first thought was weird, however after just trying it and having fun while doing it, my mood about

the unfortunate loss was really changed." All of the competitive spirit surrounding Homecoming Week reached its peak with the boy's soccer game and the girl's volleyball game. Here, the volleyball team continued their substantial winning streak with another 3-set win against Peak to Peak. Although the boy's soccer team lost 4-1 against Manual, they showed grit and determination on their senior night that paved an exciting path for the remainder of the season. These games are a very beneficial way to get the student body prepared for the main event, the homecoming dance. "The homecoming soccer and volleyball games are just one part of the overarching traditions at JA," observed senior Jacob Brackney, "Because of this tradition, I think that it is very helpful in getting people together for a common

event of homecoming and support their fellow classmates." At the end of the very entertaining week, the culminating event was the successful homecoming dance, held on the patio. Here, students were able to put on their best attire and dance the night away. This dance featured a theme of "70s" and our very own DJ, Chandler Kline, with a special guest act from Dustin Reidy. "[The homecoming dance] was one of the coolest experiences I have ever had," remarked Reidy, "I don't play live in front of people very often, but when I do, it's always a rush." Kline added, "I think homecoming was an overall success and a general increase in quality from previous years. I received nothing but positive feedback from my peers in regard to the music element of the dance."



Fall Fest

By: Madeline Scoggins

Homecoming season comes to a close as students fill the soccer field and patio to hang out with friends in a school-sanctioned bonding experience.

After Covid, Fall Fest returned as a way to unite the student body outside of academics while bringing an end to Homecoming week. “We really wanted some kind of fun festival that was a sort of give-back to the school where everyone in the student body could participate and be out together having a good time,” states National Honors Society advisor Mrs. Thimsen. “We thought of Fall Fest as a way to do that in an organized manner where we were all together having fun and enjoying our company and like a pre-event [to Homecoming].”

The event gives everyone a break from being in class to hang out with their friends and bring an end to Homecoming week. In past years students had expected more attractions, so there was more to enjoy this year like additional food trucks, club-run games, and bouncy houses. “To decide what events go into [Fall Fest], we looked at years before us and saw what

worked and what didn’t work,” states NHS Vice President Avere German. “Like we knew food trucks were a big hit, so we brought them back.”

NHS plans Fall Fest in a way that brings everyone together outside of class to play games and make new friends. The event has had more students participating due to the event being within school hours, so it gives everyone the opportunity to be a part of it.

“There’s a lot more clubs, and I feel it’s really cool to see them working together to make great games for everyone to be a part of,” states freshman Samantha Scoggins.

Fall Fest is a way to unite the student body outside of academics, giving everyone the opportunity to participate in the event. It gives students a chance to hang out with friends without worrying about classes.

“I feel like it brings the student body together outside of classes because they get to have fun with classmates instead of only talking to people about school,” says Junior Kayla Edlund.



Floating

By: Hayley Smith

During the Homecoming week, many students took part in the annual Homecoming Parade, an event that brought students together from different organizations to show spirit. This year, JA Elementary hosted the parade, a change from the previous year when Woodrow Wilson Academy hosted it. The parade had creative floats representing various clubs and sports teams. The National Honor Society (NHS) played a significant role in coordinating this event.

Avere German, the NHS Vice President, shared her experience participating in the parade. She explained that NHS decided to go with a beach-themed float, which they believed would be both simple to carry out and cost-effective.

German said, “We kinda just sat down and thought about some really simple themes that we could execute with not a lot of money and time and beach-themed is really simple.”

When it came to constructing their float, German mentioned, “It was so easy. We had one girl, Maddie Lowe, bring in a bunch of stuff that she had from her first grade birthday party of Hawaiian-themed things that we just taped on the truck.” Despite some minor challenges, such as dealing with the wind and



wishing for more participants, German thought the parade went well.

Other clubs, such as the Spanish Honor Society, made simpler floats. Ethan Watson explained that participating in the parade was really simple.

“The theme of our float was based on two holidays, one was Day of the Dead which is coming up soon which is why we had a skull in the front of the car, and the other one was the Festival of Flowers from Columbia. It was simple: all we did was get there and smack on the decorations with some blue tape on Olivia’s dad’s car.”

Watson explained that in order to make the float better “we could maybe have spent more time to either get a better car or just spend some more time decorating

and having more traditional outfits.” Overall he believes that “the float turned out really well with flowers all over the car and Day of the Dead skulls around. I think our car was really unique and fun.”

Olivia Saenz also participated in the Homecoming Parade with Spanish Honor Society. Saenz explained that she loves the parade because, “it involves the whole JA community, Elementary and High School, and it’s fun for everyone!”

Although she believes the event went well, she thinks “if it was done at the high school it would probably be easier to set up and tear down, but I think it’s fun for the elementary kids.”

The Homecoming parade isn’t just about showcas-

ing your club’s spirit, but also getting to see what the other clubs get to do.

“I only saw about two other floats. I was running around making sure the Spanish Honor Society’s float was put together,” Saenz stated. “But out of the ones I saw, I liked Environmental Club’s float. They had a wonderful theme and they had people dressed up. For example, someone dressed as the Lorax, and it was just so fun to see.”

Artificial Shortcuts

By: Hunter Hobbs

It's late, you have two tests tomorrow, a reading quiz and a paper to write which is due by midnight. There is just no way that you can get all this done in time, you need help. With just a few words entered you magically have that paper taken care of, that AI bot is a life saver... you'll plan better next time, until you don't. Many have heard of the developing AI technology around the world seen as both a problem and a helpful source. A lot of teachers are afraid that students might be using AI to cheat, but a number of students, and even some teachers, think that it may be helpful after all.

According to Mr. Ketcham, AI is a cheap way of working. "They use it because they want to use it to generate something without work, they're being lazy, taking the short way."

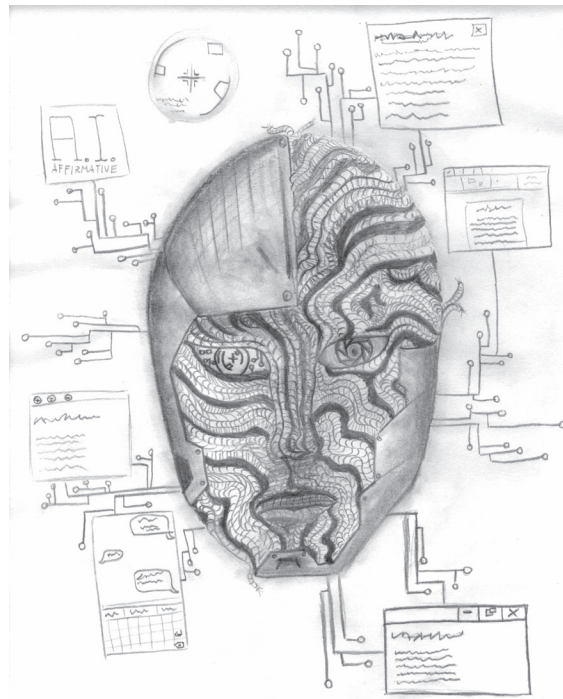
It is true that some students use the new technology to simply sidestep work for more leisurely activities, but there are other perspectives to consider.

"I think that the students who would be tempted to use it would be tempted to use other technology as well. They may, prior to AI, find essays, paragraphs, ideas all over the internet and use it. They would use other cheating methods for the same reason, and one of the most common uses would be by the student who doesn't feel like the assignment is meaningful or relevant. I think sometimes the temptation of taking the shortcut is greater than the potential consequences of being caught," remarked Mr. Purcell.

Many teachers do not appreciate the idea of AI, nor do they like the idea of finding a cheap method or "taking the easy way out." AI has been fantasized within the last few decades,

with everything from the Terminator franchise to smart cars. But the truth is that commercial AI has been a fairly recent development, with many new possibilities that have yet to be discovered. One is that there are opportunities for students to grow with the technology.

Mal Memon, sophomore, states that she uses AI to "ask for safe drives to certain destinations, as well as art references from image generation."



AI can be a good reference point, and help with certain creativity. There has been a large debate on whether or not AI-generated art is considered real art, and whether or not AI-generated stories are considered a story. Mostly because AI pulls from thousands of resources in order to compile as it "creates."

Other students have used AI for the mere entertainment of watching it work. Ayden Clausen, sophomore, states, "It is entertaining to watch it work, but I personally have not used it for anything practical."

Ultimately there are many uses of AI, and although it can be concerning, teachers aren't closing off the possibility that it can be useful in class nor are all students running to find shortcuts.

"The overwhelming consensus in classes was that they [students] would never use it. They wouldn't use it for schoolwork, they were actually kind of horrified by AI generated art. They didn't think AI generated art should be considered art, and AI generated writing isn't real writing. I can't say that I was surprised by that reaction knowing those students, and if their take on it was indicative of their cohort, I'm less worried about that," concluded Purcell.

Lost for Love

By: Abigail Stephens

Managing a healthy social life in high school is intimidating at best and soul-crushing at worst. When dating is added into the mix, things can get really complicated.

The topic of dating is uncomfortable to many students despite the average age of kids' first dates being between twelve and thirteen. The recent Homecoming dance has caused some students to have curiosities about dating. When asked for their opinion on dating in high school, many flushed red, laughed, or ran away.

However, a handful of individuals were willing to share their insights on dating.

"Dating in high school is not smart," explains freshman Nathan Harding. "Dating is for after high school because most guys aren't emotionally mature enough to be able to handle relationships." Others feel the relationships they create won't last beyond their senior year. "Relationships don't really last," expresses senior Rose Gray. "If you get into a relationship now and you and your partner go to different colleges later, you don't really have enough of a bond to make it work."

While most students don't expect to see their peers much after graduation, the occasional scenario of "high school sweethearts" is enough for some students to ponder their relationships. It's stupid because we're all in our teenage years...but it's also not stupid because you could find your person," remarked sophomore Lizzie Gould.

Other students take a more logical approach,

considering all the stress in students' lives. "[Dating] is interesting and fun for the most part," explains senior Maya Ross, "but it's very stressful with classes and all."

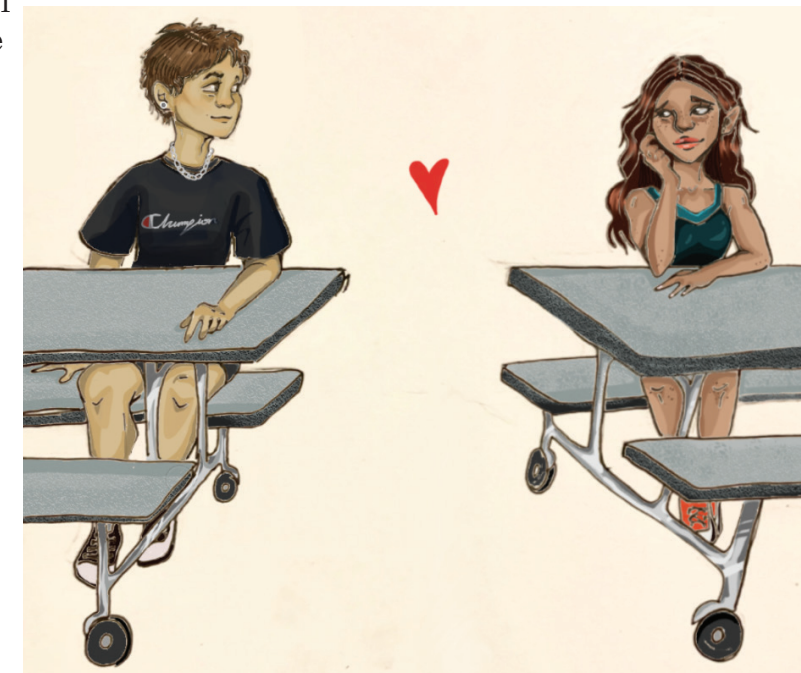
Considering the balance of priority and attention in high school is one of the leading reasons why some students express no interest in dating, along with feeling too young for a relationship.

When asked if she thought it was a good idea to gain some experience in dating before adulthood,

Ross boldly responded with, "Nah— you only live once. You have to let it happen organically."

On the other hand, some students feel that dating in high school is fundamental to knowing your boundaries for dating in adulthood.

"The purpose of dating in high school is to find your person but also test the waters of dating," explains sophomore



Sofia Araujo.

She brings to light an important point: high school is a relatively safe environment. It's where you are not quite an independent adult yet, but hopefully knowledgeable and mature enough to define your own boundaries.

"[Dating in high school] is okay as long as it's a safe and healthy environment," states sophomore Olivia Burgower. "As long as the person you're dating makes you happy, stay with it. Since this is just high school, there is really no rush. That's the benefit of being young and in a safe environment where you always have support."

Living Memories

By: Sabrina Madruga

Growing in popularity over the years with the secondary students at Jefferson Academy, Outdoor Lab is an exciting opportunity for the juniors and seniors to get a new and thrilling perspective on heartwarming memories of the past.

Recollections of sixth grade adventures can make some of the upperclassmen of today want to relive those experiences by serving their school and community through valuable volunteer works.

"I heard that some of my friends were going, so I thought I would give it a shot," stated senior Hudson Subach. "I thought it was going to be more difficult than it was, but it ended up being super fun and I had a great time with it." While participating in the various activities can be what is fondly looked back on, some of the best memories from Outdoor Lab came from observing others completing activities. "It's cool to see the next grade come up," continued Subach. "They're making an impact on each other's lives, it's interesting to watch." Similarly, junior Sofia Meyer wanted to participate in all of the lively adventures and make an impact on the upcoming middle schoolers. "I thought it would be a really great opportunity and I liked Outdoor Lab in the past, so I wanted to go again," stated Meyer. "If you want that experience and to add more to yourself, I would definitely recommend it."

Going to Outdoor Lab is a moment that will add to the high school experience, and it is a great way to see the event come full circle. "When I was in Outdoor Lab in sixth grade," mentioned Meyer, "it was overall pretty similar to now. But, it was really fun having seen chaperones then and becoming one of them now."

The people who get to experience these events each year in depth are the sixth grade teachers who attend Outdoor Lab annually with their students.

"Every year gets to be better, and I enjoy it more with the kids," mentions the sixth-grade

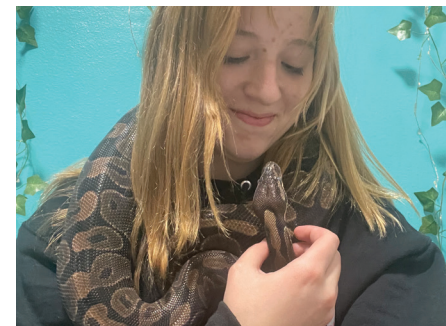
science teacher Mr. Everett. "It was so much fun to watch it come full circle; those kids, remembering when they were sixth graders, but then watching them be the leaders for the current sixth graders."

Additionally, observing the juniors and seniors step up during their time at Outdoor Lab was a major highlight for the sixth-grade math teacher, Mrs. Mott.

"The way they took that leadership role was really cool," recalled Mott. "The kids loved them so much; they lose their minds when they see those high schoolers."

The high schoolers were incredibly inspiring to the upcoming middle schoolers during their time at Outdoor Lab as well. They were idols to look up to due to the fact they had once been in the sixth graders' shoes. It gave a real life precedent of what the sixth graders have the opportunity to become in the future.

"The best part is all of them came from different friend groups and different backgrounds, so to see them come together was just amazing," stated Mrs. Welch, the sixth-grade history teacher. "It was a great example for the kids, too, of what we can be."



Menagerie

By: Jordan Leschuk

Have you ever thought of putting a leash on your bearded dragon? Have you ever scared your mom by letting your snake slither across the living room floor? Has your dad ever skinned both his knees trying to catch a pet hamster? (Yes, these are all true stories!) From cats to dogs to rodents to horses, JA students surely have the craziest of pets! Three JA students shared their experience with their special pets! These are not all your "normal" pets and they reflect just how unique their owners are.

Eliza Eichelberger has pets that most people wouldn't dare to go near. She has two snakes, Nagini, a Normal Ball Python, and Fang, a Pastel Ball Python. Their names show Eichelberger's love for the Harry Potter movies.

"We gave Nagini his name because he looked like Nagini in the movie to us," Eichelberger said. (For anyone who has been unable to enjoy the movies or the books, Nagini is Voldemort's pet snake.)

The second snake, Fang, was named after one of the book's hero's pets.

"Fang is super calm, barely moved at all, has never bitten anyone and therefore he's Fang, Hagrid's dog, where he looks scary, but he's actually really cool," she continued.

When asked why she would want snakes as a pet, Eichelberger replied, "Well, when I was ten years old, me and my sister one day decided that we wanted snakes and my mom hates anything with fur or feathers basically, so we are con-

finned to reptiles only, and me and my sister felt a snake would be cooler than a lizard because not that many people have snakes. One day, we just kind of went to our parents and said 'we would like a snake'. My dad hates snakes, so it was problematic, but he agreed and we ended up getting two snakes that day."

Aubrey Cox has three pets in her busy household. Cox is the proud owner of a dog and two guinea pigs. When asked what made her want her pets, Cox replied that her family bought their dog so the family's previous dog had a friend. The guinea pigs were cute and fun to play with.

She went on to say, "If you want a pet to play with or be active with, a dog is a good option. Guinea pigs make great lap animals, but they are very high maintenance and time consuming." When asked about what stands out with her pets, Cox's response was, "not a lot of people have rodents, so I guess they are just kinda fun."

Chelsea is the name of her dog and the guinea pigs' names are Sunny and Babe. She went on to explain what people think of her pets.

Cox stated, "The dog is normal. My guinea pigs, they either make fun of or say that is cute."

Next up was Abrie Gamble. She has two dogs, one cat and two horses. Gamble has not known of a time in her house when there wasn't a pet around.

"I have had one of the horses since I was born. The other horse was born on my brother's birthday, so it was like we had to have it!" Gamble remarked.

Strengthening

By: Kris Kientz

Not everyone expects to find friendship and fulfillment within a suicide prevention program, but that is exactly what has happened for the students involved in JA's Sources of Strength club.

The program has had several major changes made to it since last year, and its members are eager to get started. Club advisor Mrs. Dasta has provided some insight into the ambitions the members have for this new era.

"Sources of Strength was considered a class last year, but we changed it to a club this year," Dasta explains. "We meet twice a week, and it's a peer-led organization. The kids are already planning out some new campaigns, so I'm just really excited to see how those turn out. We have so many new faces and plans!"

These new members consist of many freshmen looking to explore the latest opportunities that high school presents them. Freshman Ellie Arnold is new to Sources of Strength, but she loves the club and what it represents.

"I've only just joined this year, but we are student leaders that do a lot to prevent suicide," Arnold explains. "We sometimes meet with kids to see what their strengths are or how we can help. I really like being in a club that helps



people; it makes me happy to see that I can make an impact."

All of the members have a very positive outlook on the year, but they are off to a slow start due to the absence of executive decision-making. The students each have multiple ideas, but they cannot focus on just one at the moment. Some of the younger students like Anna Waters are looking to make Sources of Strength more useful at Jefferson Academy.

"I don't think the club is very effective at JA," Waters states. "We need better organization and planning within the group, but very few of us have those skills. If we want to reach out and help people, we need to do something about that."

While many of the students agree with Waters, other participants in the club are looking to more involvement as a solution to the slower start.

"We don't have enough people in the club right now, and the people we do have are mostly freshmen like me," Arnold remarks. "If we got more people to join, then maybe we could get a campaign rolled out quicker."

Perhaps the largest issue that Sources of Strength faces is the facetious attitude that the majority of the student body approaches the club with. Very few students actually use the resources the club has, so the Sources team would like to fix this.

"I wish the club was taken more seriously because it is a very important resource, especially for students here at JA," Waters comments.

"Mental health isn't really talked about and is even looked down upon here, so it's a struggle to not have any sort of resources available." Despite the challenges they are facing, the students are so excited to be in a positive and nurturing environment like the one Mrs. Dasta has provided for them.

"It's just a fun environment," Dasta says. "The kids love coming in and hanging out together. They've already formed a lot of bonds with each other; it's great to watch."

Pickled

By: Hunter Hobbs

Although many sports are growing in the United States, not one of them is spreading as fast as pickleball.

"Pickleball is America's fastest growing sport!" exclaimed Mark Leoni, a senior as well as the president of the pickleball club.

Landen Lee, a sophomore at Jefferson Academy, recently started playing pickleball, and emphasizes how simple it can be to pick up.

"Yes. It's easy to pick up and there are better players who can teach you to get better as well," he mentioned.

Leoni has been playing pickleball for a bit of time, and had started playing this sport like most do: by being introduced to it through his family.

"I started playing pickleball with my grandpa, and I then stopped temporarily, then my parents got into it so I started pickleball club because I realized it was fun," said Leoni.

Pickleball was originally seen as an 'old people' sport, but as it is getting increasingly popular, many young people are starting to enjoy and

play pickleball.

"I think it's fairly popular right now. I mean, it's somewhat known, and it's more for older folks," Lee stated.

Lee hasn't played much pickleball, but he had played table tennis beforehand.

He learned about pickleball because he "saw the pamphlets around the school, and since I'm good at ping-pong, the skills might transfer over, and it'd be fun!" The sponsor of the pickleball club is an incredibly energetic and exciting club. "It's a blast!" she mentioned. "[I enjoy] hanging out with the students

and playing with them, because I play too." Pickleball club has a fun, non-competitive spirit, and anyone is welcome to join.

"Don't discount pickleball," said Mark. "Try it, join it! You don't even have to join just show up! We have so many beginners, and we all have a good time!"



JAGWIRE

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The JagWire is Jefferson Academy's completely student-produced newspaper. The JagWire covers issues and events of interest to the JA community, and its students, faculty, and staff. The paper is reported, edited, and laid out by students. The JagWire is published by JA, as a part of classwork for the Publication Production Newspaper class.

If you would like to contact the staff or advisor of the JagWire email us at newspaper@jajags.com

Spirited

By: Rylan Mills

With fall sports finishing up and teams such as Girls' Volleyball and Softball entering state playoffs, students are making their way to home games to support their classmates. But how do these student sections affect the game, if at all?

"Jefferson Academy does tend to have a good student section. It depends on what sport because certain sports draw more spectators, but for the most part volleyball tends to draw a pretty big and fun student section," junior Aubrey Nelson states as she describes the student section at the volleyball games. "Compared to other schools, ours at least keeps up and is sometimes better."

Volleyball is continuing a historic season, currently 18-1 and ranked second in all of 3A. With the Volleyball team dominating on the court, they have also gained the recognition of students. Theme nights for home games have brought herds of students dressed as cowboys or tourists to the games cheering for aces and imitating roller coasters in between sets. On the other hand, Boys' Soccer has had some struggles this season. Currently 0-9-5 in the

season, the student section has had a lackluster appearance at some of the soccer games. "The enthusiasm of the student section has majorly dropped off compared to the last two years because we had two great teams and went far into the playoffs with great records and this year it is the worst year in the history of the soccer program. Not many people want to come to watch people lose or tie their games every time," senior soccer player Jacob Brackney explains.

In the past years, the student section heavily favored the Boys' Soccer team in the fall compared to other sports like Girls' Volleyball. The student sections at Boys' Soccer games were one of a kind, whether it was getting kicked out of games or almost starting fights with opposing players. "The players love it when there is a student section because then we know that people are there for us," Brackney comments. As fall sports begin to wrap up and teams like Girls' Volleyball prepare for playoffs, the student section will prepare for theme nights and come up with witty chants that throw opposing teams off.



Driving

By: Sabrina Madruga

Clubs send chunks of grass flying into the air as JA Boys' Golf came together to work hard, accomplish difficult goals, and climb to unreachable heights.

With the golf team under the new coaching leadership of Mr. Kirkley, the team is met with new opportunities to grow over the season. "It went really well," stated Kirkley. "The biggest thing was showing improvement, and we were really close to getting to state." Some of the most important things that come with being a good coach is training the athletes on the psychological aspect of the sport. "That's the tough thing about golf," mentioned Kirkley. "Your mental state can affect how you play the rest of the tournament." This proves true for all the members of the team and their time played in the tournament. "Your teammates can bring you up," declared



freshman Ben Pederson, "but your mental health can bring you down." That being said, sometimes the best way to push through that mental barrier and achieve greatness is by having someone to look up to. "My dad is my biggest inspiration for golf," mentioned Peterson. "He's been teaching me since I was three. Most of my success comes from my dad and what he's taught me over the years."

Success can come in other forms as well. Junior Kaleb King had stated that the reason for his personal success was being a multi-sport athlete. "There's things that translate over from hockey and lacrosse that I can bring over to golf," continued King. "Things, like the mindset you have to have, are the same across all three sports." The many personal victories and difficult hardships while on the golf team led to the individual and gradual successes of the players. "It was rough," stated King, "but I think when we got into the swing of things, we started to iron things out and we really started driving in the season."



Dig'n It

By: McKenzie Estep

The piercing sound of the whistle echoes through the gym as the arm of the ref points towards the Jags and the team roars in celebration of another win during an incredible season. The JA girls varsity team is on their way to state with a killer record of 18 wins and 1 loss. With their high rankings and endless wins, the girls are super happy with their performance and hope that it continues for their final games of the season.

"We're #2 in 3A state right now, which is an incredible accomplishment that I actually have trouble wrapping my head around because it's so crazy, but we are super hyped and hoping to go really far," said sophomore Mckenna Adams.

Junior Taylor Yoon added, "We have come so far and we just have to keep pushing, we are at the top of the state and I'm confident that we will either stay where we are or get higher up in the rankings."

Their high rankings and success as their season comes to a close has brought in buzzing excitement for the players and what they might be able to achieve.

Senior Stori Blois commented, "I have really high hopes for the rest of the season. I think we are a really good team with a lot of hope and confidence, so whatever happens is gonna be really good."

Adams added, "I think with our position right now, nearing the end of the season, going further we are going to make it really far and get better and better. People are definitely going to be shocked when they see how good we are."

With such promising stats as they move into the league playoffs, many of the players are thinking about state and how they can ensure they make it there.

"I think we definitely have to mentally prepare for state, it's something that hasn't happened in the history of our team, so it's a completely new thing and none of us really know what to expect," said Adams.

No matter how far the team ends up, this season is going to be one for the school's history books, with how successful they have already been and the memories the players have been able to make along the way.

"Since I'm a senior, I really want to leave knowing I was supportive and I made a difference. I feel really good about this season. It's been an amazing experience and even if we don't make it far, I will always remember this team," said Blois.

The team played their final regular season game on October 24, winning 3-1, and are now preparing for regionals.