



Jones Monthly Update

Growth Mindset - The Struggle is *REAL!*

ISTEP+ Part 1

Struggle is all around us. Struggle is part of everyday life. Struggle is one of the “gifts” life always has a knack for giving each and every one of us. Struggle does not discriminate. So, equipping our kids with how to go into something knowing there will be struggle, how to endure the struggle, and making it a point to connect success to the struggle are three very important things you can do at home. And by doing so, help your child better deal with struggle and better deal with the hard knocks life will throw at them. Here are some ways to help your kids understand struggle, navigate struggle, and come out on the other side of the struggle feeling more confident and proud.

- Show your kids the Michael Jordan *Failure* commercial (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45mMioJ5szc>.) It is only 30 seconds long.
- Help your kids become curious about errors, mistakes, or reasons why they were not as successful as they (or others) thought they were going to be.
- Provide some puzzles and games that create a little struggle...just the “right amount” of struggle for your kids. Work together and discuss why struggle shows that you are learning and that you can build resiliency.
- Model and encourage resiliency. Resiliency is the ability to bounce back from errors, setbacks, and failures.

Before every victory comes struggle. As often as you can remind your kids of what Mahatma Gandhi said relative to accomplishing success...with every accomplishment there is “a beginning, a struggle, and a victory.”

Thank you for continuing to change your mindset, change the mindset in your home, and change the mindset of your kids. Growing through struggle is a powerful way to change the trajectory of kids’ lives; giving them opportunities never once thought imaginable. Encourage your kids with the tenacity to embrace struggle, never run from it, work through it, and come out on the other side victorious!

Grades 3, 4, and 5 will begin taking ISTEP+ Part One on February 26 and testing will end on March 9. Please make sure that your child is in attendance on these days. Please make sure that they come to school rested and have a good breakfast each morning. Please talk to your student about doing the very best on this assessment. The teachers and students have all worked hard in preparation for the test. We want the students to show what they know.

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Perfect Attendance

We want to congratulate the students that had perfect attendance for the entire first semester. These students were here *each day on time* and attended the *entire* school day. The students celebrated this achievement with Breakfast with the Principal. Congratulations again, to the following students: Jackson Darrell, Nadeen Ibrahim, Bryce Hodges, Mya Morales, Abigail Pratt, Julian Ruiz, Magdalena Ruiz, Charles Blakely, Abraheem Ibrahim, Duncan Krenkel, Arthur LaGace, Emily Merch, Saloni Patel, Mariah Pratt, Max Torres, Braden Bachmann, Madelyn Blakely, Angela Dixon, Brooke Hodges, Melanie Huley, Allisan Medrano, Brenna Monteiro, Samantha Pratt, Justin Ireland, Justice Jarosak, Ella Sowa, Alexis Wilson-Sayre, William Goffette, Ahmed Ibrahim, Abigale Krenkel, Ariel LaGace, Kathryn Merch, Caitlyn Mullins, Lenia Pratt, Nathaniel Schelstraete, Joaquin Torres, Anna Zurek



January Students of the Month:

K - Amelia Buckland, Nadeen Ibrahim, Gage Andrzejewski. 1 - Alexis Merch, Joy Promnitz, Daniel Huizar. 2 - Abraheem Ibrahim, Austin Petersen, Maria Ramirez. 3 - Manuel Ramirez, Talan Slack, Jackelyn Torres. 4 - Ashley Roberson, Lailah Wheaton, Marc Djurich. 5 - Kayla Unger, Brooklyn Ayers, Daniel Wilde. Music - Ella Sowa & Leah Mundell. Art - Macie Wadkins & Viviana Cruz. PE - Olivia Thornberry

Jump Rope for Heart

All students in grades K-5 will be taking part in Jump Rope for Heart during the week of February 5th. This will be done during their gym period and all activities will be jump rope related.

We will have special events days on February 6, 7, and 8. Those children who would like to seek donations and earn prizes need to have their permission slip signed and returned by February 5. All donations will be due Friday, February 23, 2018.

February 6- Sports Apparel Day

February 7- Dress in Your Very Best "Red Carpet Day"

February 8- Pajama Day

You may participate in these events for the cost of 50 cents per day. All money collected during this week of fun will be donated to the American Heart Association.

NED Show

On February 12, we will have a performance by Ned's Kindness Adventure. The performers will give a 45- minute program on Kindness. The students will also learn about children from Kenya who are without clean water. During the week of February 12th we will have a Kindness sale, selling unique items that were handcrafted by Kenyan children. A portion of the proceeds go to build wells for the Kenyan people. A few days prior to the event, a parent letter with more information will be coming home.

PTO News

Our next meeting is Tuesday February 20 at 3.30PM.

Valentine's Day Parties will be on Wednesday, February 14. The snack will be provided by the Jones PTO. Valentines with candy will be allowed, the candy will be sent home.

Be kinder than necessary - for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle

Social Studies Quiz Out Team

A group of Jones 5th grade students are preparing to take place in a PTS tradition; the Twenty-Ninth Annual Social Studies Quiz Out!

These Jones 5th graders will compete with students from each of the other Portage schools in a Social Studies competition on the evening of Thursday, Feb 8, at Crisman Elementary. What makes Quiz-Out unique is that each of our eight Jones students wear shirts of a different color to the competition and then find their teams based upon the color of the print on their Quiz-Out shirts. There are eight students on each team and *each one will be from a different school*. So, even though the team has been practicing together, during the competition they will actually be competing with totally new teammates! Students will work with their new teammates in multiple Social Studies-based rounds including current events, history, geography, and problem-solving.

What a great opportunity to make new friends and use leadership, teamwork, and growth mindset skills!

Quiz-Out Team Members are Nate Tollard, Devon Ortiz, Glenn Doyle, Alex Rosales, Dylan Deel, Ava Colon, Brooklyn Ayers, and Jullian Perry.

Robotics Team Update

Our Jones Elementary Robotics Team is made up of eight 5th graders who have a passion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Thanks to a grant from TechPointYouth and VEX IQ, and some additional help from the Portage Township Education Foundation and our PHS *Portabots* mentors, we have built two remote-controlled, fully-programmable robots and an 8' x 4' arena that we have been using to prepare for our upcoming robotics tournament. Team members Aidan Kane, Jiselle Chabez, Lenia Pratt, Caitlyn Mullins, Joaquin Torres, David Lopez, Nate Schelstraete, and Darian Shasteen have been working hard since September, meeting once a week after school and during recesses to modify our "bots" and sharpen our driving skills.

Our next two competitions take place on Saturday, February 3 in Valparaiso, and on Saturday, February 10 at Crisman Elementary right here in Portage, so wish us luck! We are excited to participate in our final two tournaments and are working hard to prepare. The Jones School Robotics Team has been a great opportunity for these Jones students to become engineers, problem-solvers, troubleshooters, technicians, teammates and leaders.

Math Bowl

The Jones Math Bowl Team consists of 12 highly motivated 5th grade students who in a word "love" math. Math bowl is an academic competition that highlights, math, problem solving, and teamwork skills. Math bowlers have been practicing after school and during recess. Our Math Bowl parents have given us moral support and fueled us with snacks. In addition, the team has been expected to complete hours of extra math homework to prepare. The team's skills are becoming razor-sharp as they prepare for the big night on February 22, 2018. The competition will take place in the Portage High School West gymnasium and begins at 5:00.

We hope that lots of family and friends are there to cheer us on.

Math Bowl Team Roster: Abby Bachmann, William Goffette, Gladen Gould, Abby Krenkel, Conner Morton, Caitlyn Mullins, John Ruelas, Alexia Salas, Rylie Sandifer, Nate Schelstraete, Joaquin Torres, and Kayla Unger

Important Dates

- February 3 - Robotics Club Competition - Cooks Corner Valparaiso
- February 5 -9 - Jump Rope for Heart
- February 6 - JRFH Sports Day
- February 6 - Love & Logic meeting in cafeteria
- February 7 - JRFH Dress Your Best Day
- February 8 - JRFH Pajama Day
- February 8 - Social Studies Quiz Out Competition
- February 10 - Robotics Club Competition Crisman School
- February 13 -Love & Logic meeting in cafeteria
- February 14 -Class Valentine Parties
- February 15 - Third Grade Planetarium Field Trip
- February 16 - No School
- February 19 - No School
- February 20 - PTO Meeting 3:30PM
- February 20 - Love & Logic meeting in cafeteria
- February 22 - Math Bowl PHS West
- February 26 - ISTEP+ Part 1 Begins
- February 27 - Love & Logic meeting in cafeteria