



NEWSLETTER of the Joliet Township High Schools

RETIRED TEACHERS

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New West Campus Main Entrance

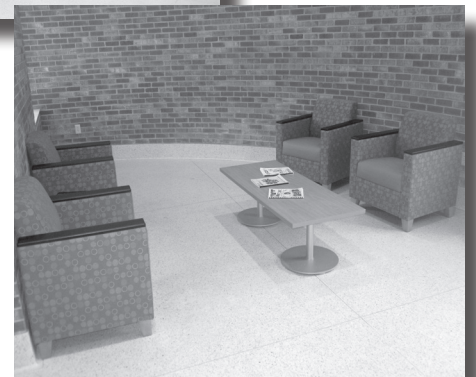


Far Left: Street view of new West Campus entrance.

Left: Bag checking area and entrance

Below: Parent and guest waiting area

Below: New Entrance area



Far Left: West Principal Teresa Gibson giving remarks at grand opening dedication.

Last year we featured construction photos of the new main entrance to West Campus. Since then construction has finished and the grand opening has been held. We have some photos of the completed project. The addition adds 3,523 square feet with a metal detector, police liaison office, bag check area, visitor waiting area and two conference rooms. The latest addition to Joliet West manages to increase security while creating a more welcoming atmosphere for students and visitors. Explaining the importance of the new entrance to people unfamiliar with the school has been difficult at times, JT Superintendent Cheryl McCarthy said. "Everybody thinks, 'Why did you build a new front door?'" "For the longest time when one entered the building, you were entering a hallway. That will no longer happen." The hallway is used by students to go from class to class. Doors on either end of the hallway were locked for security's sake when classes were in session. When students moved between classes, the hallway doors were open and the front door was kept locked. Anyone who arrived while students were going through the hallway would have to wait until they had passed and the hallway doors could be locked again. "People have said for years that we need something that is a little more appealing," Joliet West Principal Teresa Gibson related in her remarks. The police liaison office puts the officer assigned to Joliet West close to the front door rather than down the hall, where the old office was. The new main entrance adds another layer of separation between outside visitors and students inside, while also providing indoor space where visitors can wait before being let into the school. Teresa also said that the conference room adds needed meeting space.

Teachers, Staff and Employee Reunion

We are considering a JTHS Teachers, Staff and Employee reunion on Sunday, May 19, 2019 at the American Legion Post 1080 at 2625 Ingalls Ave in Joliet. This is the location of our previous get-togethers but with some changes. The occasion would be a no meal event just sandwiches plus a vegetable tray and fruit tray with a cash bar available. The time would be from 5:00-7:00 p.m. At this time we think that a \$10 charge would cover the cost of the food and hall rental. More details will be forthcoming in the January 2019 issue of the Retired Teachers Newsletter with sign-up information and deadlines.

Deaths

- **Wilbur “Skip” Hansen**, age 82, of Wilton Center, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, May 8, 2018. Skip was born and raised in Northern Wisconsin. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin Stout and his master’s degree from Northern Illinois University. Skip married Litta Eden in 1963 and taught as an industrial arts teacher for 36 years in Rockford, IL and at all the Joliet Township High Schools. He loved to fish, garden, and spend time with his grandchildren. Skip also enjoyed being an active member of the Will County Farm Bureau Prime Timers, where he served on the event committee. Skip attended the Open Bible Center in Kankakee. He was a member of Gideons International.

- **Myrna Laugier**, 69, beloved mother, treasured Aunt, cousin and friend of many, passed away on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at her home. Myrna was a teacher at Joliet West High School for several years where she impacted the lives of many students. She had a great love of music and literature, and was an avid gardener. She was an active supporter of Blue Line Heroes Scholarship Foundation, (a charitable non-profit organization that provides assistance canines and training for those in need)

- **Deborah L. Lojcutz** “Debby” (nee Anderson), age 62, of Shorewood, passed away on Monday, April 23, 2018, at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home, with her family by her side. Born July 1, 1955 in Chicago, she was the daughter of the late Richard and Claire (nee Bodinet) Anderson. She grew up in the 103rd and S. Homan Avenue neighborhood, and was a graduate of Morgan Park High School. Debby received her Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology, and later received her Master’s Degree in Education from Lewis University. She taught physics for many years at Joliet West High School, and was also an adjunct professor in physics at Lewis University. Debby was very active in the International Society of Physics Teachers.

- **Roger Lee Swank** - Age 87, longtime area track and cross country promoter and Joliet Area Sports Hall of Fame inductee, passed away Friday, August 17, 2018 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home. Roger was born in Zion, Illinois on September 1, 1930. He was a graduate of Joliet Township High School and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. Roger attended Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, MN for one year. He also served in the Air Force from June 24, 1954 to December 10, 1957 at the Elmendorf Air Force base in

Anchorage, AK. Roger was employed at Joliet West High School and served as a teacher as well as the track and cross country coach for 26 years. Roger was a member of Southfield Church in Channahon, Illinois. He is survived by his wife Janet (nee Soderberg) Swank; four children, Kent (Ruth) Swank, Van (Mary) Swank, Lee (Chris) Swank and Darlene (Dale) Tady; fourteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

JTHS Foundation

Having hosted a very successful golf outing on June 14, 2018, the JTHS Foundation has set a date for the golf outing for next year – June 13, 2019. This year’s event was attended by a large contingent of enthusiastic participants who enjoyed a beautiful day at Wedgewood Golf Course with lots of friendly competition. There were many sponsors who donated prizes as well as a large group of hole sponsors. All of the proceeds from this event go to Foundation sponsored grants.

The annual trivia event has also set a date for next year’s event – March 10, 2019. It is also changing venues. In 2019 it will be held at the Holiday Inn Ballroom at 1471 Rock Creek Boulevard in Joliet. If you have not attended or competed at this event, it has become a favorite with many. Complete with teams in costume as well as lots of friendly competition.

The Foundation will give over \$20,000 in grants to JTHS staff and students on November 5, 2018 in a program at the JTHS Administration Center. In addition, each campus will be granted money to assist students financially for AP Testing, Get Ahead Summer School, and other needs. With the community’s continued support of their fundraisers, the Foundation will be able to continue and even increase their assistance to the JT district.

Amazon Smile – the Foundation also participates in the Amazon Smile program. A portion of your purchases on-line at Amazon Smile will go to support the Foundation’s activities. The web address is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3547936>. What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the JTHS Foundation. Check out to site above to see how the activity works.

Reunions

The JTHS Alumni Association has listed many class reunions on the JTHS.org site. Many of our grads enjoy having their former teachers at JT attend their get togethers. Look at “Quicklinks – Alumni – Reunions at jths.org to see information along with contact information.

The next issue of this newsletter will be published at the end of January 2019. It will only be available in a PDF version on the JT Web page or mailed to those without internet access who have requested hard copies.

Alice Henderson 3205 Willardshire Joliet, IL 60431 (815) 436-5418 Cah3205@aol.com Web Address: https://jthsalumni.nationbuilder.com/jths_retired_faculty	Dean Sayles 2618 Old Woods Trail. Plainfield, IL 60586 (815) 267-7911 deansayles@comcast.net
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