TROJAN TIMES

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

September/October 2025 J.P. Taravella High School

Welcome Back

As we wrap up the 1st quarter, we're proud to celebrate an incredible start to the school year! Our students, teachers, and staff have shown outstanding dedication, enthusiasm, and teamwork—setting a strong foundation for success. Let's keep this positive momentum going as we move into the 2nd quarter. We look forward to seeing even more growth, accomplishments, and Trojan pride—both individually and as a school community!

Mark your Calendar:

November 6:
PSD Day (11:40 AM dismissal)

November 11:
No School (Veterans Day)

November 13:
Interim Reports Issued

November 24-28:
No School (Thanksgiving Break)

December 16-19:
Midterms (Early dismissal)

December 19:
Early Release (12:30 PM dismissal)

Former Trojans Return Home!



Members of the **Class of 1985** recently took a nostalgic walk down memory lane, revisiting their old stomping grounds at JPT—40 years later! The day was filled with shared memories, laughter, and heartfelt pride as classmates reflected on how far everyone has come since their high school days.



Teacher Spotlight

Mr. McMorris, one of J.P. Taravella's amazing STEM educators, has been selected for the Broward TSA (Technology Students' Association) Advisory Team due to their outstanding leadership. TSA will be replacing the SECME competitions in the district STEM Olympiad, and will provide opportunities beyond Broward to compete at the state and national level.

TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION

K-12 Everglades Champion School



Everglades Foundation awarded JP Taravella as an Everglades Literacy Champion School. The Marine Club worked throughout the year to promote sustainability on our campus by composting during lunches with the hopes of discouraging invasive iguanas from feeding on our courtyard "leftovers".

Hispanic Heritage Month



Students from Mr. Tamayo's AP Spanish classes, celebrated and honored figures and events that mark the Hispanic Heritage Month, including Frida Kahlo, Roberto Clemente, Día de los Muertos, Carlos Santana, Bad Bunny, Celia Cruz, and Shakira in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

From left to right, Cesar Rodriguez, Sarah Cuervo, Sarah Giron, Sofia Villarreal, Nicolas Mejia, Oliver Zamarripa, Sara Zapata, and Chris Pardo.

Peace Week Celebration



Our littlest Trojans joined in on the fun and celebration of Peace Week by wearing white! The color white symbolizes peace, unity and love- in an effort to remind everyone to choose peace and stop violence.





Marching Band



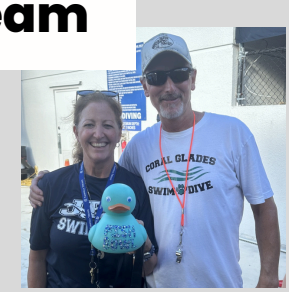
The **Trojans Marching Band** performed their first competition at the Falcon Sound Invitational. **They received 2nd place in their class (2-A), and Best in Class Percussion**. The students are very happy to see their hard work paying off. We are excited to see where this season will go.

FAU Engineering Trip



Mr. McMorris and **CTE Advisor Mrs. Allen** took engineering students on a day to FAU to explore future career paths in engineering. "**Engineer Your Future Day** reflects FAU's commitment to empower students to explore their passions; ask questions; imagine building technologies that make the world better, safer and smarter."

Swim Team



Our **Swim Team and Coach Candy Allen** made waves during the annual FISH BOWL Meet against Coral Glades! The highlight was the Senior Splash-Off, where our seniors swam their final relay while underclassmen splashed and celebrated them through their last lap! **A huge congratulations to Coach Candy Allen for receiving the FISH BOWL Award** for her outstanding leadership, sportsmanship, and dedication to the program.

School Counselor Spotlight

Celebrating CCLR at JP Taravella High School

✨ **Shout-Out to JP Taravella!** ✨

A huge thank you to **Rachel Kusher** for sharing JP Taravella's incredible **College & Career Week ideas and Canva creations!** 🙌

From fun **dress-up days** tied to college and career themes, to a **word wall of college/career terms** and engaging **lunch-time prizes**, Rachel and the JPT team are showing how to make College & Career Week both meaningful and exciting for students.

Our very own School Counselor **Mrs. Kusher** was recognized by the District's School Counseling Team for spearheading an incredible College & Career Week here at JPT! Kudos to her and the rest of the school counseling team!

Debate Success

JPT had two novice competitors in Student Congressional Debate, and both excelled in their chambers: **Maya Guzman** secured 2nd place, while **Ashley Louis** took 3rd. During the season opener we participated and achieved notable success in both categories we entered. **Sohan Patel** earned 2nd place in his Congressional Debate chamber, and our World Schools Debate team, consisting of **Keira Gomez, Brandon Guzman, Daniel Aguirre, Sufeeyan Chagani, and Aiden Shrestha**, also secured 2nd place.







Cross Country

Our Trojans made history at the BobShever NW Area Championship. **The boys' team captured their third straight title**, led by senior **Craig Dennis**, who became our first-ever individual champion. They were backed by strong top-15 finishes from **Scardy Fils, Josh Reneau, and JahRee Pierre.**

The girls team placed third overall, highlighted by standout finishes from **Olivia Noel, Valentina Castillo, and Jada Thelwell.** With both squads continuing to climb, this group has the talent and drive to qualify for States — something our girls haven't done in more than 20 years.

MOSS Club



We are beyond grateful to our **MOSS Club** for working tirelessly on our new signage- celebrating our A rating! Now everyone who drives by JPT knows, what we've always known- we are an A rated high school and proud of it!

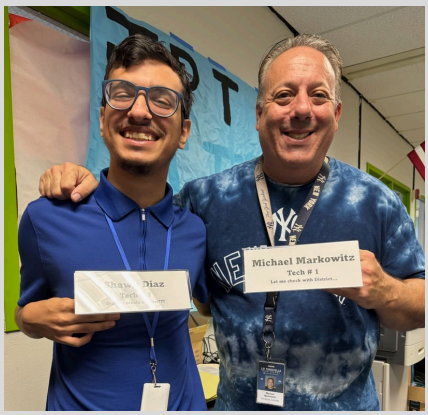
DECA

JPT DECA had the incredible opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes tour and enjoy an exhilarating game with our very own Florida Panthers Hockey Team! (Two-year Stanley Cup Champions!) It was an unforgettable experience as our students listened to Florida Panthers executives discuss their careers on a panel, toured the stadium, and witnessed the Florida Panthers defeat the Philly Flyers!





IT Appreciation Day



Our incredible IT professionals **Mike and Shawn** keep JPTs systems running, and our technology challenges solved! Their hard work and dedication power our success every single day!

Resiliency Resources:

The Parent Guide to Resilience:
https://resilienceguide.org/

Three Ways to Boost Your Resilience as a Parent:
https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/three_ways_to_boost_your_resilience_as_a_parent

Resilience Guide for Parents and Teachers:
https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience/guide-parents-teachers

Resilience for Teens: 10 Tips to Build Skills on Bouncing Back From Rough Times:
https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience/bounce-teens

REMINDERS:

- **IDs MUST be worn at all times while on campus**
- **Students MUST follow BCPS dress code**
- **Cell phones should be out of sight during the school day**

Together we made JPT an 'A' school!

Official School Page: jpttrojans
Events/School life: jptsga
PTSO: jptaravellaptso

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