TROJAN TIMES

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

January & February 2026 J.P. Taravella High School

Welcome Back

As we begin a brand-new year, we are filled with excitement and pride for all that our students and staff have already accomplished. The first semester showcased resilience, growth, and a commitment to excellence that truly defines our school community.
We look forward to an outstanding second semester filled with new opportunities, continued academic achievement, championship-level performances in our classrooms and on our fields, and meaningful moments that bring us together.

Mark your Calendar:

March 3:
Senior Panoramic Photo

March 7:
Chess Tournament @ 8:30 AM

March 12:
Early Release
Drama Benefit Show @ 7 PM

March 13:
No School (Employee Planning Day)

March 16-20:
No School (Spring Break)

March 23-27:
Senior Spirit Week

March 31:
BEST Writing (9th & 10th) & SAT (11th)

Day of Service and Love

Our Day of Service and Love started the day at the Serenity Garden by the 1000 building for some words of encouragement and remembrance. Throughout the day students and staff participated in a Kindness Bingo, **spreading love and giving back through small acts of service.** Through this meaningful day, we honor and remember those impacted at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018. #NeverForget







CTE TOY



CTACE put on an amazing evening highlighting each schools **CTE Teacher of the Year**. We are so honored and proud to have **Mr. McMorris** represent JPT.

Talented ART





Students in **Dr. Rutledge's** ceramics classes got creative for Valentine's Day by making heartfelt designs and exploring a variety of tribal African masks.
*The African mask pictured here is a work in progress!

Senior Spotlight

JPT celebrates **Manahil Khawaja**, one of our top seniors and BRACE Cadets! She has completed all requirements for her AA degree and will participate in BC's graduation ceremony this May. What an incredible accomplishment — we're so proud of you!

Baseball



The Trojans opened the season hosting two exciting home games:
• A thrilling 4–3 comeback victory over Spanish River, rallying in the bottom of the 7th inning.
• A strong 7–2 win over Pompano, highlighted by a 5-run 4th inning.

Best of luck to Coach Miranda and the Baseball team

MTL



Our **MTL students** enjoyed an inspiring field trip to the **African-American Research Library and Cultural Center,** where they experienced an amazing show and powerful performances by Sounds of Freedom.
It was a memorable day of culture, learning, and entertainment!

Cheerleaders!



Our **Competitive Cheer team** participated at the **FHSAA State Championship**. This marks the first time since 2013 that Taravella Competitive Cheer competed at the state level. **This season included District Championships, a 3rd-place finish at Regionals, and a strong showing at States- 11th in their division.** Outstanding work, Coach Julie, and congratulations to our Competitive Cheer team. We are incredibly proud of you!

School Duel



J.P. Taravella has been selected (for the second year in a row) to compete in the **School Duel** high school trivia competition on Beacon Tv. Currently team sponsor, **Mrs. Kirschner** is practicing with the 2025-2026 Trivia Team: **Oliver Luscombe, Danielle Kirschner, Andrew Moses, Jake Gonzalez, Keira Gomez, Arielle Spence!** **Go Trojans!**

All Star Game

Trojan Man proudly represented JPT at the All-Star Games during their half-time mascot race! While we came up short it was a fun-filled night celebrating incredible talent, school spirit, and unforgettable moments for all athletes and spectators!



JPT Thespians

Mrs. Sessions and her crew were recently mentioned in a national magazine for their outstanding graphic design designed by student **Samuel Caycedo**!



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EDUCATION NEWS

PLAYBILLDER Spotlight: These Students Loved Coming to School to Rehearse *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*

The musical will be performed at the Florida Thespian Festival in March.

BY DYLAN PARENT
JANUARY 12, 2026

Our JPT Drama fall production of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum was **selected to be presented mainstage at the Florida Thespian Festival in March.** This is the first time in 11 years and the 5th time in school history that a musical from JPT has been selected.



Come out and support our benefit show on March 12th for A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum at 7:00 PM

DECA

DECA hosted its 3rd Annual Beyond High Career Panel, welcoming eight professionals from diverse fields to share their journeys from high school to successful careers. Students engaged in breakout sessions, asked questions, and gained valuable insight and advice for their futures.







Basketball Highlights









The **Varsity boys** ended the regular season with an exciting win over Nova High School, finishing 14–6 overall and peaking at the right time. Congratulations to **Coach Maffett** and the Varsity team for a strong season built on teamwork, resilience, and finishing strong — and **a special congratulations to our four seniors on a memorable high school career**!

Literacy Week







Our Literacy Coach, **Dr. Brown** went above and beyond to create a meaningful week full of learning and fun. From engaging activities to schoolwide celebrations, **the impact on the importance of reading** was felt across our campus.

Wrestling



Our wrestling student-athletes may be quiet in the hallways, but they are loud on the mats, demonstrating determination, discipline, and heart in every match. Congratulations to **Arheanna Bryan** who clinched Regionals and is **our Female Regional Champion — she is headed to STATES. The boys team finished 2nd Overall in Districts, our highest team finish since the 1990s.**

BRACE Advisor of the Year!



Congratulations to **Anna Hernandez** on being named **BCPS BRACE Advisor of the Year!** Her unwavering dedication, compassion, and commitment to guiding students toward bright futures truly set her apart. Because of Ms. Hernandez, doors open, dreams expand, and students feel supported every step of the way!

Advanced Academics

We had a fantastic turnout at our Advanced Academics Night! Families had the opportunity to learn more about our AICE/Cambridge, AP, and Dual Enrollment courses. Amazing job to Mrs. Cohen & Mrs. Armstrong for showcasing all the rigorous programs that prepare our students for college, careers, and beyond!

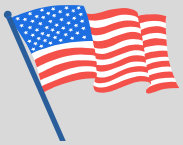


Teacher Spotlight!

Social Studies teacher, **Mr. Collazo** has been selected to participate in the **Educator Field Study at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** in Washington, D.C. All air travel and lodging expenses are covered by the Gutterman Family Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education at Florida Atlantic University.

We are so proud of our Trojan Teacher!

Student Spotlight!



We are incredibly proud of **Sufeeyan Chagani** for being selected to participate in the **Florida House of Representatives Messenger Program**! During session, he will be working at the Florida House, assisting with daily operations and gaining firsthand experience with the legislative process. What an outstanding opportunity and well-deserved honor!

We are ecstatic for him to represent JPT and showcase Trojan excellence at the state level!

Track

Congratulations to **Coach Spann** and the entire coaching staff for their continued dedication and leadership as they push our athletes toward excellence.

New School Records

- Boys 4x200 Relay — 1:28.97 (**Jamaal Elliott, Brandon Sanders, Jaden Barclay, Travis Dillion**)
-Girls 4x200 Relay — 1:43 (**Jada Thelwell, Patricia Costa, Tranya Standley, Timya Johnson**)
-Boys 4x1600 Relay — 19:25 (**Scardy Fils, Ali Mustafa, JahRee Pierre, Craig Dennis Jr.**)
-400m Hurdles — **Joshua Reneau** — 55.93
-Girls Long Jump — **Olivia Noel** — 5.69m
Javelin - **Camille Camper**

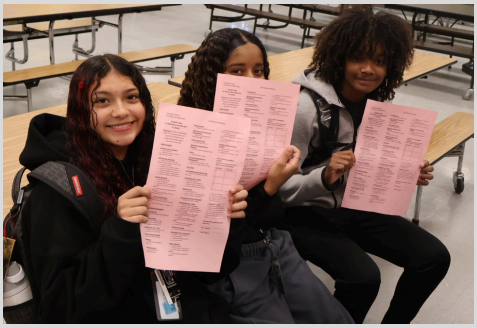
Louie Bing Track Meet Highlights:

🥇 Girls – 4th Overall
🥇 Boys – 14th of 39 Teams



Visit to RMS





Trojan Man and our incredible School Counseling Team took the Trojan spirit on the road to Ramblewood Middle School!

We loved connecting with our future 9th graders and sharing all things JPT — academics, athletics, activities, and what it truly means to be a Trojan. The future is bright, and we can't wait to welcome the next generation home!

Silver Knight Nominees

Congratulations to our outstanding **Miami Herald Silver Knight Nominees**! Their dedication to service, leadership, and academic excellence represents the very best of our Trojan community. They lead with heart, integrity, and a commitment to making a difference both in and beyond the classroom!



MLK Art & Literacy Awards

We are excited and honored to have our very own, **Malarie Drew**- MTL student represented and recognized at the MLK Art and Literacy Award Ceremony!
Her creativity, talent, and powerful voices truly reflect the spirit of service and leadership.

We are so proud of her outstanding accomplishments!



Choir

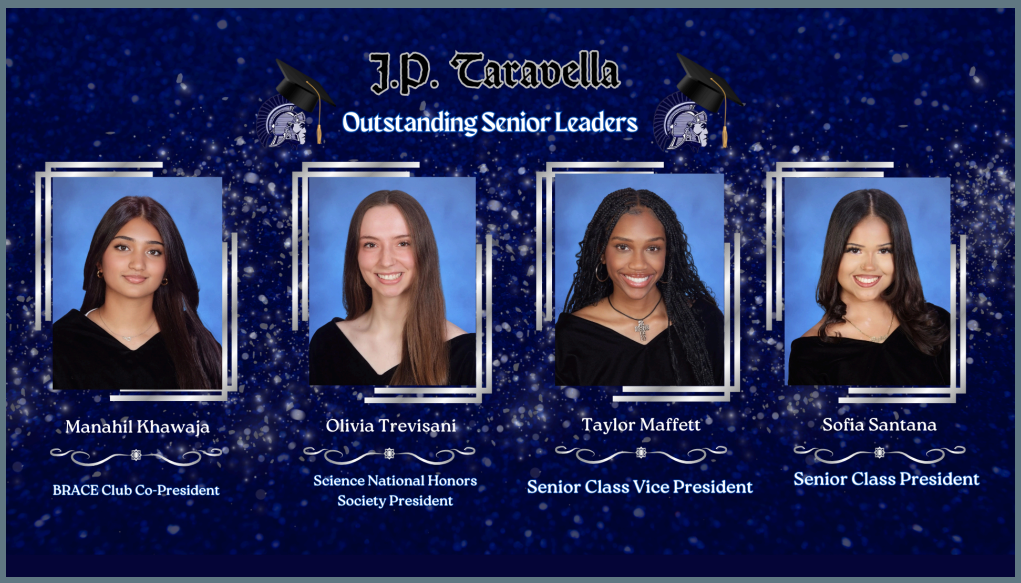


Congratulations are in order for the following Choir Accomplishments:

-The Advanced Madrigal Ensemble on their rating of Excellent at Solo & Ensemble Festival.
-Brianna Mendizabal- received a rating of Superior in the Classical Solo Voice category at Solo & Ensemble Festival.
-Participation in the Broward County Honors Chorus included- Jasmyn Asencio, Princess Christ, Fernando Cordoba, Aubree Fogle, Marissa Gardner, Malik Grant, Starrique Herbert, Alessandra Luna, Natalie Marsh, Brianna Mendizabal, Melody Ventura, Daniel Valera

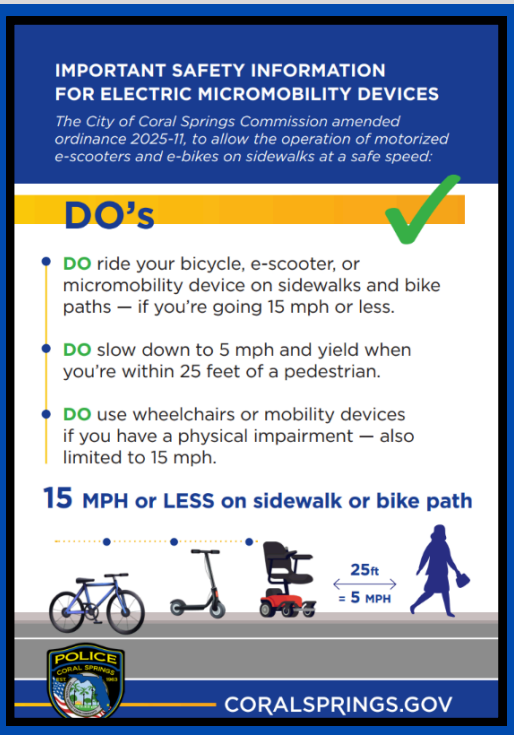
Outstanding Senior Leaders

We proudly celebrate our **Outstanding Senior Leaders** who have been recognized for their exceptional leadership and character, as they represent JPT among all BCPS High Schools.
Their integrity, dedication, and positive impact on our campus truly represent the best of JPT. We are so proud of you!



Safety Alert!

Friendly reminder to all students and families: please review the **Motorized Vehicles Do's & Don'ts** before riding throughout the community. **Safety is our top priority** — Let's work together to keep our campus and community safe for everyone!





Graduation

JPT was proudly recognized as 1 of only 7 district high schools whose 2025 graduation rate increased by more than 3%!

What an incredible accomplishment and a true testament to the dedication of our students, staff, and families.

We are so proud of this achievement and can't wait to keep the momentum going with the **Class of 2026 on June 2nd at 7:00 PM at NSU!**



Resiliency Resources:

FACE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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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