

FEBRUARY 2023



NEWSLETTER

Jeff's Jots



PICTURES
WORTH A
THOUSAND
WORDS

Fishing Elective Term 2 - 2023/24



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NEWSLETTER

Jeremy's Journal

On a recent afternoon, I was near a group of Senior Class students as they were talking about their futures. Specifically, they were playing a sort of game: "What will so-and-so be doing when they're older?"; "Who in the Senior Class will be the first to get married?"; "Who will have the most children when they grow up"; etc.... What made this conversation stand out to me was when a few of the children were answering the hypothetical question about where they would live when they grew up. One of the sixth-grade students was deciding between one day living in New York City, Paris, Australia, or Barcelona (all great choices!). But then as she thought more about it, she stopped suddenly and said, "Actually, I think I'm gonna live right here in Gainesville and my kids are going to go to Jordan Glen and I'm going to teach electives and go on the SCT with them." A few of the other kids nodded in agreement at that plan.

I thought to myself about what a great testament that is for JG and for her parents: they are providing a childhood experience to their daughter which is so cherished that this child wants nothing more than to copy it for her own future children. This may be a bit of a stretch on my end - I know children in particular only know what they know and can't really think about an alternate life beyond their own experience. But there is also a lot of truth in it. This 2023-24 school year is an example of this: Twenty of our students (nearly 1/5 of the entire school!) are 2nd generation JG'ers. They had a parent attend Jordan Glen (or in some cases, Lotus Land, JG's original name) and however many years later, their parents are providing the same experience to their children. I love observing these parents watching their own children enjoying the same traditions they once did, playing the same "only at JG..." sports on the big field they once played, and experiencing the same magic that defined their own childhood. I can think of no higher compliment to Jeff and to Jordan Glen that countless alumni come back with their own children, eager to provide the same opportunity they had.

As we approach the final stretch of the school year (which doesn't seem right; how does time fly by so fast?), I want to offer my gratitude and thanks to everyone who makes JG such a beautiful place. Thank you to the families that trust us with your children's education and childhood; thank you to PoPs for your energy, passion, and generosity; thank you to the JG students for your smiles and eagerness; and thank you to all of the JG teachers & staff for everything you do to keep the JG magic alive.

Here's to finishing out the year strong!





Kim's Kaleidoscope

My journey to become JG athlete continues with my personal growth mission to play more sports. A few weeks ago, I showed up at Advanced Tennis and Jeremy put me on a team with Jeff.

Jeff says to me, "Oh, you're a stopper."

"What's that?" I ask.

Jeff heckles me, "It isn't good."

Sure, some people might have cried or walked away, but not me. It fueled the fire! I am going to learn to play tennis. I am going to get so good that the next time I show up at Advanced Tennis and get put on a team with Jeff, he'll know that his team is stacked.

So I signed up for an adult tennis clinic, and we played team doubles and touch-the-fence. And while it was fun, it was not nearly as enjoyable as playing tennis at JG. I had this realization that it's so much more exciting to play at school with brutally-honest middle schoolers and Jeff, whose commentary is going to either make me a better athlete or improve my sense of humor.

My Top Ten Realizations Through Learning to Play Tennis & Gatorball at JG:

1. Kids are brutally honest. A student asks me regarding my tennis game, "Kim, do you think you're good?" If you didn't read that with a sarcastic inflection, please read again.
2. When playing doubles, the baseline player needs to communicate with their partner at net and yell "switch" if they change sides, because the net player can't look back, and to maintain coverage of their side of the court. Communication is key to winning in doubles. Sports are truly a metaphor for life. #mindBlown
3. DO NOT get hit by a tennis ball slammed by SJ or Oscar in Advanced Tennis. Important lesson learned. #ouch #slowReflexes #keepRacketUp
4. I think I am actually getting better. During Gatorball, I overheard Jeff yelling this to his teammate in disbelief, "You let KIM get the ball from you?!?"
5. The intricacies of being the goalie continue to elude me. During Gatorball, Jeff yells to me, "The goalie can use their hands!" as I let a ball whiz by me; unfortunately the leg I kicked out failed to stop the ball from going into the goal. In my mind, it was going to work. If I only had those huge Mickey Mouse goalie gloves. #hugeMickeyMousegoaliegloves
6. Kids say the darndest things.
Student: Are you the goalie?
Me: No.
Student: Good.
7. Jeff shows his love by explaining the rules of team sports to me: "Kim, you cut off your own teammate!" Well, that's just embarrassing. Do you want to know who it was? Fine, I cut off Oscar, who is like a Gatorball God. I know, what was I thinking? And that's the point, I wasn't, I wasn't thinking. When playing sports, you need to always be aware of your surroundings; it's so easy to get lost in tunnel vision. I was so focused on the ball that I lost sight of Oscar, my teammate! I'm sure I cost us a goal with that move. Sorry, Jeff! #metaphorforlife
8. Another week, another chance. Hello? Defense? Wake up! I feel terrible every time we, the defense, let a ball into the goal. On Friday, I didn't play so well. My left leg was bothering me, I can't run as fast as SJ or Addie, and I left the goalie vulnerable too many times... but I am already looking forward to playing Gatorball next Friday. I hope I'll play better, I hope my body cooperates, I hope we win. Another chance to redeem myself.
9. FIERO = FUN. The term fiero describes that electrifying burst of adrenaline you feel when you throw your hands up in the air and scream "YES" because you just had the most amazing play in a game and successfully overcame a challenge. I experience fiero when I unexpectedly block a shot from going into the goal, or when I steal the ball from an offensive player, or when I am playing doubles and hit a surprise volley at net and win the game point. It's a thrilling energy rush and I highly recommend putting yourself into situations where you may get to experience fiero. It is life changing. #fiero
10. You might get a hard-earned compliment from Jeff.
#gamesetmatch

Notes from Nicole & Gowri (2nd – 4th)



We had a wonderful time at our Valentine's Day party. Thanks to all the parents for bringing in the fruit (for our fantastic fruit bar), drinks, and delicious treats. Also, thanks to the senior class for the wonderful field events. The students really enjoyed everything.

In Math, the fourth-grade math group have moved rather quickly with their division unit. They have completed both chapters on division with remainders, and we are branching off into fractions. The fifth-grade group is halfway into their fraction unit. They are working hard at it. Both groups are still working on memorizing their multiplication math facts. They have their 1-minute and 5-minute quizzes every math class. Please check your child's binder for their study cards. The third-grade math group is now excitedly working on multiplication and will be moving into division soon. This group is getting concepts easily. The second-grade math group has completed units of measurement and geometry, and they are now working on their fraction unit. They certainly have a knack for it and are doing well. A reminder that parents should check the students' binders for their math homework and check their planners for when homework is due. This applies to all students in grades 2-4.

A reminder that all 2nd graders should read aloud for at least 15 minutes a day, at least 5 times a week and keep track of it in their Reading Log. Third graders should be reading 20 minutes a day for 4 days a week. Please fill out your Reading Log and have it signed by a parent. Third graders Reading Logs are due every Friday.

As you are probably aware, the Iowa Basics tests have begun for the 3rd and 4th graders. They will test on February 29th and March 5-7, in the morning. It is important that the students get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast. We appreciate having the students present during this testing period if they are feeling well enough.

The students enjoyed our last field trip to the Museum of Natural History, which was followed by a nice picnic lunch in their outdoor area. We had a great time visiting all the various exhibits, including the beautiful Butterfly Garden and the Antarctic Dinosaurs exhibit. Our field trip also introduced the students to Florida's indigenous groups and environments, which will be our focus in Geography for the third term. Thank you to all the chaperones. Our next field trip is to visit the Santa Fe Zoo. Please look out for more information coming soon.

Happy Spring and have a safe and restful Spring Break!

Love,

Nicole, Gowri, Chandler, and Ashley

With love from K – 1



Winter is an exciting time at Jordan Glen and many students' favorite term. We managed to find a little time between celebrations for reading, math, STEM, music, and geography, and the children are learning and accomplishing so much. We imagine that you may have heard some interesting facts about the Northeast and the Midwest, including some towns with very silly names, regional treats, and state slang. We also just had our first Star of the Week and are looking forward to the rest.

We are all very enthusiastic about Spring and all the wonderful things that go along with it. The pool will be re-opening when we return from spring break. The K-1ers are eager to see their friends, siblings, and reading buddies on stage in Willy Wonka. Next, they will have their own chance on stage in our class play, Main Street- U.S.A. This term also brings new electives and new opportunities to learn, bond, and grow before this year quickly comes to an end.

Our Love,

Genaveve, Molly & Katelyn

PreK sends their Love.



The PreK has had a wonderful start to 2024! We are making music together in preparation for our spring “musical,” using art to develop our fine motor skills, playing our way through learning our letters and numbers, and learning to calm our bodies through our yoga and breathing practices. One of our highlights of 2024 (so far!) was our celebration of the Chinese New Year! Addison’s mom, Cindi, came to our class to teach us how to prepare for the year of the dragon. We cleaned, decorated, read stories, made fireworks, and were gifted a special chocolate coin!

With Love,

Sue, Maria, Dana & Trish

