

The Advocate

Of The Golden Knights

Volume XIII No.1 John Adams Junior High School, Edison N.J. 15¢

The New Student Council

By Mary Ann Bellina
and Susan Miller

This year the Student Council hopes to accomplish many things. For one, we are working for a yearbook. We could reduce the price by selling boosters to the parents. We are devoting alot of time because we think it is something everyone would appreciate.

We would also if possible, like to increase the number of dances. This would give us a chance to have more of a variety, such as a 50's revival or a Sadie Hawkins, along with the regular dances. Getting seventh graders into dances is an old project, but we'll keep trying until we get the approval of Mr. Fried and the ninth grade committee.

On September 21, we had our first pep rally. The attendance following the rally was greater than it had ever been at any four football games before. It would promote school spirit if we could have a pep rally before the football and basketball games that are to be played in our township.

Around the holidays, in December, we would like to raise money for some type of charity. We haven't decided on any certain project yet, but we'll think of something soon.

A lot of our plans include the raising of funds. There are many ways to do this. Such as selling handmade candles, candy and bake sales, and even car washes. If you have any ideas that could help us out, we'd like to hear them. Please help us help us.



J.A. Welcomes Mr. Nuzzo

By Sheri Winston

You have probably seen a distinguished looking but unfamiliar face in our school lately. It's none other than our new vice-principal, Mr. Paul A. Nuzzo.

He has lived in Edison for 23 years and worked in our school system for 14 years. The last 13 years he has taught at Edison High School.

Mr. Nuzzo is a Marine Corps Veteran and a graduate of Western Kentucky University. He has received his Masters Degree from Monclair College, and has done graduate work at Rutgers.

Our new vice-principal is married and has a father of 5 children. The family pet is a dog named Tote, who is a schnoodle (part schauzer and part poodle). Mr. Nuzzo enjoys tennis and golf and raises tropical fish. He's one of our councilmen and is very interested in our community government.

As in Education, Mr. Nuzzo feels our school program is informative and comprehensive. (He hopes to add more variety in electives to the curriculum.)

Mr. Nuzzo would like to thank the Student Council for their gift, a name plate for his desk and the sign in his office welcoming him here.

His new position excited him and he feels it's a new and interesting challenge. He is looking forward to a good, warm working relationship with the students.

Testing 1-2-3

This year, fourth, seventh and tenth graders were tested on their ability to read and solve math problems. This test, which is called the Educational Assessment Program was distributed all throughout N.J. by the N.J. Department of Education.

The purpose of this testing is to determine whether or not the education in New Jersey matches the goal set by the Board of Education.

All pupils who took these tests will be notified of their results.



Tradition Changes

This year the school made a change in the elections. In past, elections were held the year before the officers were to hold office. This year it was different, we elected the officers the same year they were to hold office. This way the seventh graders got to vote too. The other way in which you voted the year before, the seventh graders coming into the school didn't have the advantage of voting for their student council officers.

This year's president and vice-president of the Student Council are Susan Miller and Mary Ann Bellina. Both not having any components in the election, became officers without any question. Joanne Sliwinski is our new Treasurer. The new secretary Nancy La Rosa is also an editor on the paper.

I would like to congratulate Susan, Mary Ann, Nancy and Joanne and wish them the best of luck. I'm sure they will do the best job possible.

Got A Problem?

By Gail Mitchell

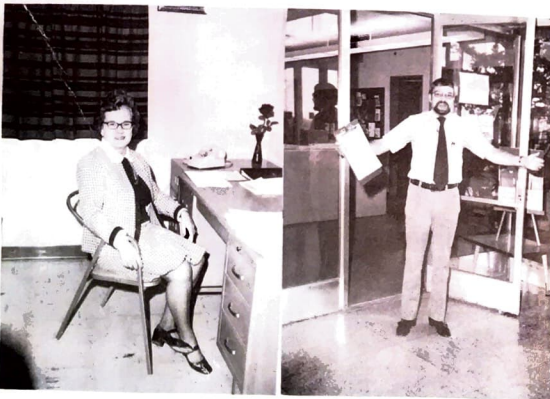
This year you may have noticed we have two new guidance counselors. Their names are Mrs. Curry and Mr. Truhe. In a recent interview, I asked them what made them interested in becoming guidance counselors. Mrs. Curry replied, "I like working with young people." Mr. Truhe replied a little differently, he said, "I found that there were students who needed more than a classroom experience." He also felt that additional training was necessary.

During my interview I found that Mr. Truhe taught school for three years in Piscataway Township at Quibbletown Junior High. He taught English, History, Reading and Geography for seventh and eighth graders. When the position was offered to him he knew he had the ability of doing a fine job. He was also counselor at Quibbletown. Mrs. Curry, as some of you may know, was a counselor at J.P. Stevens.

I also asked them what are some of the things they do to help the students. They both replied, "I like to help them with both academic and personal problems."

Just before I finished my interview I asked them they think the school needs. Mrs. Curry said she thinks it should stay just the way it is. Mr. Truhe thinks the ninth grader should get a better pace for the seventh and eighth graders. He also said that the students should have a little more say in school matters.

It's too bad that most of the students only see Mr. Truhe and Mrs. Curry when they have a problem. They are very nice to talk to. Why don't you stop by their offices someday if you have a problem or just to say hi.



An Enthusiastic 9th Grade

By Michele Kabak

As we all know, Mr. Mesonas teaches metal shop, but did you know that he is also the new advisor of the ninth grade committee? Mr. Mesonas has been teaching at John Adams for four years. He has also participated in other after school activities.

His main goal for the committee is to get as many people as possible involved in the school's events. This year the ninth graders are going to try to do as many things as possible. Early in October, they sent a letter to the New York Mets wishing them the best of luck in the World Series. You've probably noticed what a great job Mr. Mesonas did at the pep rally.

A big job of the committee is to arrange our cafeteria for the school dances. This is done sixth and seventh periods on the day of the dance. The decorations throughout the cafeteria are also done by these students. The refreshments at the dance and the tickets provided for the dance are sold by the members.

This year, the committee is a little different than previous years. In the past years the committee was on a voluntary basis, but this school year three people were selected from each ninth grade homeroom. There are now thirty members and meetings are held as often as possible. With such an enthusiastic leader as Mr. Mesonas this year's committee should really get a lot done.

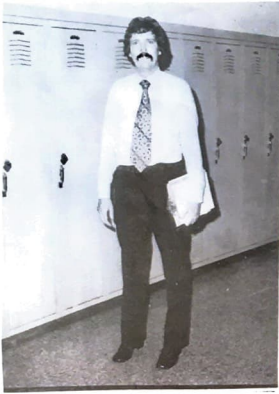
Our Own Rembrants

By Donna Crapelli

This year, as part of Back to School Night, an Arts and Crafts Festival was held. Mr. Kovacs and Miss Zalick were the supervisors.

Some of the projects that were brought in included: Leathercraft, woodwork, ceramics, needlepoint, paintings, hand knittings, and photography. The festival was held on October 11th as an assembly first and second periods for the 7th and 8th graders. Miss Zalick commented that the festival was definitely a success, based on the participation of the students and teachers and the response of the parents. When asked if she would like to supervise another exhibit, she replied, "I would like to have one in the future, but I would like it to be bigger and for the entire school."

The festival turned out to be a success thanks to Mr. Kovacs and Miss Zalick and the students of John Adams.



Welcome New 7th Graders

We interviewed some new seventh graders to hear their views of J.A. and here are some of their responses:

R.L. from James Madison said he would rate J.A. on a much higher level than he would rate James Madison. The teachers are terrific and he also enjoys the activities. M.L. also from James Madison wishes to have more assemblies and pep rallies. She would like to be allowed to come to the dances. She thinks seventh graders should have the same rights as the eighth and ninth graders. Out of all the seventh graders we interviewed, the majority of them have the same ideas and opinions.

We know that J.A. is lots different than the elementary school and hope they are not having too much trouble getting adjusted. Lockers have to be opened and classes have to be gotten to on time. We think they've adjusted quite well and hope they enjoy their three years here.

We, the eighth and ninth graders of J.A. would like to welcome all the seventh graders to their new school and would like you to know we now consider you a part of the school.

We not only hope you have a good year but we also wish you luck in the years to come.

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Join A Club

By Richie Grazide

There are many clubs here at John Adams for the students to take part in after school. You can join any time during the year, but why wait, join now.

For those of you who artistically inclined, there is Mrs. Sorkin's Art and You club. All you young Bobby Fishers will be glad to know that there is a chess club right here at Adams. If these clubs don't interest you, there are the science, wood-leather crafts and gymnastic clubs. The ecology club is sponsoring a paper drive. They would appreciate any newspapers and magazines that you can spare. Almost all the clubs are open to everyone except the photograph club. This club is open only to 8th and 9th grade students.

There is an activity bus for those students who cannot get home any other way. Check with someone in the office if you want to know where the bus stops.

Get involved and join a club today!!!



S.M.I.L.E

By Nancy La Rosa
and Lynn Sitrin

What's an Advocate without pictures? Of course we all know that pictures contribute a lot to our newspaper, but do you know who's responsible for these fantastic photos? Our photographer is Mr. Thompson. He takes just about every picture for the Advocate.

Mr. Thompson is a fantastic photographer and devotes a lot of time to his photography. He tries to get pictures of most of the events at John Adams. His pictures add so much to the Advocate that we want to thank him very much for giving up his time for our newspaper.

Hey, Big Spender

By Debbi Schaubman

Inflation has affected everyone, even our school cafeteria, which directly affects our own wallets. Yes, the prices have gone up, but in most cases only five cents.

The rise in prices is because the rates for the supplies went up. So, the next lunch you buy make sure you're getting your money's worth.



Council Goals for 73 - 74

The Student Council feels that John Adams is put together pretty well. We have many things that other schools don't have and may not get for quite a while. But one thing John Adams is missing is a yearbook.

We feel that the memories of the three years spent at Junior High are different from any other in our lives. Changes occur in each individual throughout 7th, 8th and 9th grades. Some of which we don't realize until years later. If we could catch these memories in pictures they would always be appreciated and enjoyed by everyone.

There are many things to be included in a yearbook. We'd like to have individual pictures of the ninth graders, along with the seventh and eighth homerooms and all clubs, teams and other organizations. It would also include teachers and counselors.

Beside the question of what to include, what to exclude, there are many other problems. We need teachers who will supervise and money will be needed to help start us.

No actual price can be set at this time. We still don't have all the estimates we would like. There are also many other things that add to the cost. Pictures must be taken and teachers who will supervise must be paid.

If we really want this yearbook, a lot of work will have to be done and student participation will be necessary.

Meet the Press

By Nancy La Rosa
and Lynn Sitrin

As another school year is here another Advocate is put out. A staff is chosen and the work begins. But do you realize all the work that must be done? Most of it cannot be done without student participation and faculty cooperation. You can help us. Your ideas and suggestions make it a better newspaper. We want to know what you want to read and see. Together we can try to make this year a good one for the Advocate of the Golden Knights.



Hello New Teachers

By Karen Stern
and Chris Geissler

This year, John Adams is happy to welcome eight new teachers to the staff. First we would like to greet our new English teacher, Mrs. Wappel. Mrs. Wappel teaches English to seventh and eighth grade students. She used to teach tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders at Middletown High School. Mrs. Wappel lives in Scotch Plains. Her grades in English were always excellent. Mrs. Wappel enjoys many hobbies which include skiing, tennis and collecting antiques, as well as dog training and showing. In teaching junior high, Mrs. Wappel hopes to prepare her students for high school, both scholastically and emotionally.

Mrs. Wappel has quite an interesting background. She has traveled extensively throughout the world, having lived in Japan, India and Africa. She has also worked for VISTA in Lapwai, Idaho teaching the Nez Perre Indian tribes. Besides all this, she is very interested in politics.

This year our new math teacher, Mr. Babich teaches general math to eighth graders and general business to ninth graders. Mr. Babich has taught previously at a high school in Perth Amboy and has lived in various places. His hobbies include basketball and playing the stockmarket. Mr. Babich's ambition in teaching is to help other people and we are sure he is doing just that.

Our new typing teacher is Mr. Battaglia. Before teaching at Adams, Mr. Battaglia taught a number of subjects at the St. Vincent Academy in Newark. He is married and lives in Edison. He enjoys a variety of activities such as sports, music and reading. He attended school in Metuchen and always received good grades in the subjects he teaches. Mr. Battaglia says he is very happy at this school and enjoys working with the faculty. Our new typing program is surely off to a good start.

We also have two new art teachers this year. First we would like to welcome Mrs. Sorkin. Mrs. Sorkin teaches art to eighth and ninth grade students. She previously graduated from Newark State College in June 1973 with a degree in fine arts. Mrs. Sorkin is married and has two daughters, ages 10 and 14. She lives in Berkley Heights.

Naturally, she loves to paint but she also enjoys concerts and reading. Mrs. Sorkin's fondness of kids is what made her decide to teach. When asked what she hopes to accomplish in teaching she replied, "I want to impart a feeling about how great life can be if kids would look around and see how interesting their environment is. I want to turn them on to Art and life."

Our other new art teacher, Mrs. Leveduski, teaches grades seven and eight in the morning and then leaves to teach art in another school in the afternoon. She previously taught art in Edison High School. Mrs. Leveduski lives in Edison. Like Mrs. Sorkin, her interest in art and kids brought her to teaching. When asked what she would like to accomplish, she told us she wants to make students open-minded about art. The art staff should be really great this year with such fine teachers.

We have three new foreign language teachers. One of them is Mrs. Birchholtz. Mrs. Birchholtz teaches French full time at Adams, to all grades. She lives in Somerville. In junior high school she tells us, French earned her many low grades, but in high school her grades improved. Some of her hobbies are sewing and music. Mrs. Birchholtz teaches because she enjoys working with the students. The accomplishments she wishes to achieve in teaching are to give her students a basic foundation in French and to prepare them for high school. The students enjoy Mrs. Birchholtz.

Another new foreign language teacher is Miss Halper. She teaches part time at Adams and part time at Wilson. She teaches Spanish to grades seven and nine. Miss Halper lives in Middlesex. A few of her interests are photography, horseback riding and swimming.

The third language teacher is Mr. Veblaitis. He teaches German to grades seven through twelve and obviously does not teach full time here. Going back in time, Mr. Veblaitis told us he attended a junior high in a little country on the shores of the Baltic Sea called Lithuania. There he did very well in languages and humanities. His hobbies are varied, playing ping pong, singing, playing the piano, the violin and the accordion. In teaching, Mr. Veblaitis hopes to contribute his own mind and soul in shaping the students' minds. Mr. Veblaitis is an extremely interesting and dedicated man.

Each teacher is a valuable addition to our school and each has brought something new to offer. We certainly hope they all feel welcome and fulfilled at John Adams.

A Friendly Face

By Steven Tacy

As the month of November comes around, the teacher of the month comes with it. This time around it's Mrs. White (formerly known as Miss Brown). Mrs. White teaches seventh and ninth grade English at our school.

Her enjoyment of being with young people and the satisfaction of seeing them learn is what she feels made her want to become a teacher. Since she attended John Adams as a student, she was glad when she got her job here.

When asked what she wanted to accomplish with the students this year, she replied that she wanted to "establish a mutual respect, stimulate them socially and academically and help them further develop as good human beings."

She would like to obtain a Master's Degree in Social Studies of Sociology in the future. Congratulations and good luck!



Welcome Back Mr. Dominguez

By Lizette Draper

Mr. Dominguez is a History teacher at John Adams. When he was asked how long he has been here he said, "so long, you need a slide ruler to figure it out." If you missed seeing him last year, it was because he was on a sabbatical leave in Spain. When I asked him why he picked Spain, he replied, "I spoke a little Spanish and the University of Madrid has a good Social Studies program."

Mr. Dominguez took his family with him. He said it was very worth while because his boys were speaking Spanish well in a few months. In comparing the standards of living in the United States to those of Spain he found that Spain didn't have many of the modern conveniences that we have. For example Spain has only two television stations and the channels don't come on until after six o'clock P.M.

He said that the schools are very similar to ours except the teachers can smoke in the classroom and there is more discipline.

Mr. Dominguez says the students here at John Adams are very good and most of them are interested in what they are doing. I asked Mr. Dominguez if John Adams has changed in a year's time. He said, "We at John Adams are always getting better." I also asked him, "What does John Adams need to help the students?"

"There should be more provision for afterschool activities such as the gym, shop and home ec."

New Courses Offered

By Denise Cornelius

There are two new courses being taught at John Adams this year. These classes are typing and boys food.

Typing is taught by Mr. Battaglia. There are more girls than boys taking this course, but Mr. Battaglia thinks that they are all catching on easily and enjoying themselves too. Mr. Battaglia says that he is not trying to teach the students to type so many words a minute, but would rather teach them the basic fundamentals of typing.

The second new course, which is boys' cooking, will start in January. It will be taught to ninth grade boys for half a semester, second period. Mrs. O'Leary will be the instructor of this course. They will begin by making simple foods, such as biscuits and cookies. Towards the end of the year they'll be creating such things as lasagne and pies. So if you happen to be passing by the cooking room in January during second period and smell an usual odor, just remember the boys are cooking.



Where Have All The Flowers Gone?

Last year 7th, 8th and 9th grade students, through their science classes, planted trees around the school. If you go look at these trees now all you will see is a bunch of "sticks." Actually not all of the trees are dead, perhaps in the spring we can determine this better.

Mr. Robens, a science teacher, said some of the trees have died due to worm infestation. In other words a bunch of worms have had a feast on our trees. We would like to of course, keep our remaining trees alive. In order to do this supplies will be needed and student participation will also be very necessary.

Mr. Robens is not sure if any more trees will be planted this year. It would be best to wait till next spring to see how many of the trees have survived.



7th Grade Gossip

The seventh graders are really getting off to a good start. To begin with here are a few John Adams couples: J.K. and K.K., D.S. and L.N., A.Y. and M.M., E.P. and D.K., J.K. and J.R. who doesn't go to Adams, C.K. and J.M. There are a few parties coming up at the houses of L.K. and A.K. I'm sure we'll find a few more couples after those two. J.M. is really getting around this month. C.K., D.K. and K.S. are all after him. Let's get moving J.M. you've got a big selection. S.C. likes I.C. (I.C. that's your cue.) G.G. likes M.M. and M.M. will break up with A.Y. N.S. likes L.G. and N.S. hopes L.G. likes him.

Here are a few Adams-Wilson couples (The second couple is Wilson.) P.C. and J.B., D.S. and J.B., R.O. and N.C., S.M. and J.L., S.C. likes R.B. good luck S.C. J.K. likes R.B. in 8th grade, but does R.B. like J.K.?

What's this we hear about D.D. and J.H.? Is it true? Well that's about all for now with the seventh graders. Keep up the good work!!



8th Grade Gossip

We're still waiting for Cupid to shoot his little arrow into B.C. so he'll ask L.K. out. We have only a few new couples. W.S. finally asked D.G. out, while she bit her fingernails to the skin, wondering. Also, something is cooking up between L.R. and D.M. To everyone's surprise, G.L. is going with D.M., instead of E.H. We have a love affair going on between two kids, one from Woodrow Wilson and one from Adams. It happens M.B. our eighth-grade playboy (Adams) is going batty over M.M. (Wilson) after a good night at D.M.'s party. One more note, M.G. is seeing N.C. from Stevens, while picking up a few here on the side.

C'mon 8th graders, you can do better than that!



9th Grade Gossip

This year is off to a great start. There are a lot of new couples in John Adams. They are: N.G. and P.B., A.W. and S.D., S.R. and B.B., J.S. and S.F., T.W. and K.A., and R.G. and D.H.

There are a lot of mixtures of different schools, too. The Adams-Stevens couples are A.K. and B.B., K.R. and M.C., J.C. and E.M., S.R. and R.L., K.K. and K.S., K.J. and B.D., and S.K. and R.V. Believe it or not L.T. likes S.P. for the fifth time. Keep trying L.T.

The Adams-St. Thomas couples are: K.F. and B.V. and M.B. and R.A.

There is one couple from Adams and Wilson: A.P. and U.S. Look out V.M. and M.K. you have a few secret admirers.

Now back to Adams: J.I. liked N.L. or S.B. You should have made up your mind sooner J.I. S.B. is going out with R.W. now. Better take N.L. while you can. D.D. has been eyeing D.B. lately. Watch out D.B.!

That's all for now. You people who aren't going out with anyone get moving! Those who are good luck.



Soccer Athlete

If you walk through J.P. Stevens' field one day and see the J.A. Soccer team, look for number 27 because he's the soccer Athlete of the Month, George Weelen.

When asked how he felt about being chosen, he said, "I was surprised. I never thought I'd get it."

George an eighth grader, plays the inside right and is the team's leading scorer with 5 goals. He practices everyday with the team.

I asked him what got him interested in soccer. He told me, "I've always liked it. My father played Semi-pro soccer. I guess that's what got me interested." The last question asked was why he liked soccer. He replied, "There's lots of action. You're always moving around."

The Advocate staff would like to congratulate George and wish him the best of luck in the future, especially in soccer!

Football Athlete

As our 1973-74 football season opened our first athlete of the month as been chosen. He is Mike Kubas number 32. Mike's position on the team is offensive and defensive end. Practices are held every weekday from 3:30 until 5:00. From the time he puts on his equipment, until he takes it off, he is out there practicing and working hard for himself and the team. The coaches, Mr. Garquillo and Mr. Riter chose Mike because they feel he has the best potential as varsity player and has the greatest amount of knowledge about the game.

Mike was asked how he felt about being chosen and he replied "I was surprised because there are a lot of good players on the team and there is a lot of competition."

We on the Advocate Staff congratulate Mike and wish him and the rest of the team the best of luck throughout the season.

