JACKSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wow! What a year! Since the big move in October, there has been non-stop action!

We were able to successfully launch gymnastics in our new space. We thought we would be able to fill a few classes, but the community responded with a resounding "we want more". We are now running classes Monday-Thursday plus Saturday morning with 150 students. To put that into perspective, gymnastics has roughly the same number of weekly students as our art program! We hired a total of four instructors and are looking for another one or two to round out the team for the fall. It was a great winter and we are still learning how to operate an effective program for kids. They are learning a lot and having fun! We look forward to the fall so we can have nine months with these students!

Our theater program had its big production class, Neverland. The production was on a Friday night for their families and they performed three times in front of a packed audience! On Saturday they performed seven times for the Fairy Festival crowds! Most of the kids, even after seven shows, didn't want to stop! In addition, we had Acting 101 for our teens, Seussical and Heroes of Marvel. The growth we have seen this year is amazing. We are so proud of these kids! We have a lot of summer camps coming up and fall will be here before you know it!

Art and dance are both wrapping up for the year and we have art shows and recitals over the next few weeks. Tae Kwon Do has our kids testing and moving up to different belt levels. Our core programs have continued to thrive in our new building and our enrollment is up over 25% since the fall.

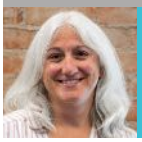
All-day child care/preschool is launching on June 13th! If you know a parent with a child 3 to 6 years old, this program is for them! We offer a 3 or 5-day preschool option and a lot of extras! Kids will be experiencing art, dance, yoga, and much more as they navigate the three floors of our new building.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like a tour of our space or if you have any feedback. We love to hear from our parents and our donors!
Thank you for making JSA what it is today!

Please feel free to email carolyn@jacksonarts.org or call me at 517-784-2389 and we can set up a time to talk!

Stay safe and I hope to see you soon!

Carolyn Moser



CAROLYN MOSER
Executive Director

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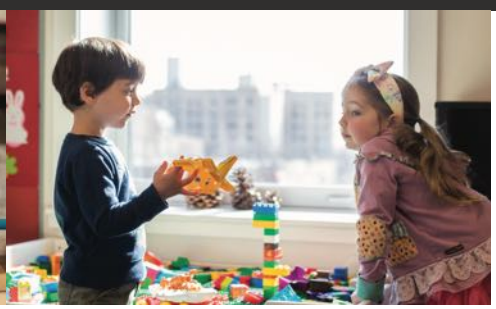
CHILDCARE ACADEMY

OUR NEW ALL-DAY CHILDCARE PROGRAM IS ALL SET TO LAUNCH IN JUNE!



On June 13th, we will be launching our new Childcare Academy! This creativity-based preschool will provide all-day care and learning. Our new, dedicated Childcare/Preschool room is finished and filled with everything children need to learn, create, and play! While our Childcare Academy will also be utilizing many other parts of our facility such as our Art, Dance, Theater, and Gymnastics areas, this room will be their central hub.

As opposed to many other pre-school environments, we don't use simple photocopied projects but have truly customized activities that are fun & creative. Through these projects, our students will learn skills such as counting, letter identification/sounds, color identification, general self-care skills & more.

Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM we will fill our student's days with group activities, outdoor play, healthy snacks, and the arts. This will prepare them for their future educational journey and also help them develop important life and creative skills that will help them thrive.

You wouldn't be mistaken if you thought this sounded much like our Kids Create program, but the Childcare Academy expands the concept to an All-Day, full Preschool arrangement. And while Miss Jode will oversee our Childcare Academy as well, our new Lead Teacher, Ernie Marr will be in charge of the day-to-day. You can learn more about Ernie on the back page of this newsletter.

If you have kids ages 3 to 6 and are looking for a full-time preschool, please consider joining us this summer. Registration is ongoing until full at 24 students. We will also offer private tours as needed for families that cannot make the open house times.

THEATER PRODUCTIONS CONTINUE TO "WOW"

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS AND ENTHUSIASM IN THEATER PROGRAM HAS PAID DIVIDENDS

This spring has been full of thrilling theater productions in our new space and they will continue on into the summer! Our staff has been working hard on improving the stage, lighting, and costume design to enhance the production quality and the experience of our students. The students also get involved in some of the processes to help them see the full picture of what goes into a production behind the scenes.

Our first Theater Production this season, Neverland, was a highlight of the Fairy Festival. Our performers immersed themselves in their characters to bring the classic story to life for over 1,000 audience members throughout the weekend.

Soon after the festival, we held four more shows from all of our varying classes including Heroes of Marvel, Seussical, Acting 101 and Mary Poppins. These colorful performances wowed audiences of family and friends and showed the development of our acting students from ages 6 to 18.

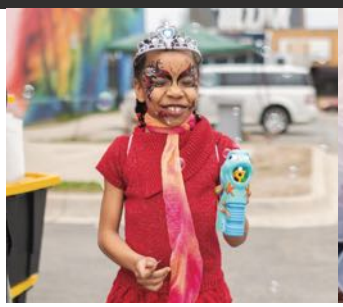
It was inspiring to see the hard work and dedication that goes into these shows from both our instructors and students. We thank all of you that came out to both support our students and help support the future of our growing Theater program.

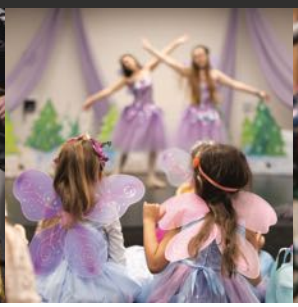
Due to the excitement surrounding Neverland and our program as a whole, we are offering multiple production classes and camps this summer! You won't want to miss shows like Wizard of Oz and Alice in Wonderland.

Our Theater program enrollment continues to grow and it is so exciting to see these students nourish their love for performing! If your child wants to join us this summer full of fun you can register online at jacksonarts.org/theater/.

FAIRY FESTIVAL IN REVIEW

OUR NEW DOWNTOWN LOCATION MADE THIS SEASON EVEN MORE MAGICAL





This May, we celebrated our 15th Annual Fairy Festival with a weekend full of marvelous magic. This year the festivities were even more outstanding in our new downtown home! The Fairy Festival is known to bring in children from all over Michigan and surrounding states, and this year was no exception. We had around 1,700 visitors join our weekend full of fun.

Our staff worked extremely hard to transform the new building into a fantasy world filled with decorated stations. All three floors were loaded with new places to discover.

Volunteers and staff were dressed up in colorful costumes ready to lead all of the most loved activities. This year we included activities such as fairy dances, tea parties, crafts, pony rides and much more.

We're very thankful to everyone that made our Fairy Festival weekend so special. We had so much support from our community of families, volunteers, employees and donors! Without them, we wouldn't have been able to make these magical moments happen.

We are happy to report that we raised approximately $40,000 through this year's event! The funds raised through this festival support our mission of providing quality, accessible arts education programs for Jackson County youth regardless of their financial means.

If you are interested in helping the magic happen next year – either on a volunteer or donor basis, please let us know! You can email us at info@jacksonarts.org or call us at (517) 784-2389. Please consider supporting this beloved event!

GYMNASTICS PROGRAM GROWTH

SPRING SEASON DEMONSTRATES ADDITIONAL SUCCESSFUL EXPANSION

Our new Downtown Gymnastics studio has been a wonderful place for students to build confidence and strength in a safe, beautiful, and supportive environment. Due to this program's growth, we had twelve different classes running this spring and are getting ready to jump into a new season this summer.

The investment in the new gymnastics equipment was a bold move, but it is now obvious that it was a wise decision . It has increased our community reach, provided affordable activities and education for Mid-Michigan's youth, and created new jobs.

It has been a pleasure to see our gymnastics students grow in both their skills and confidence while practicing the basics of gymnastics – and they are just getting started!

During each class, the students rotate between different skills such as the beam, bars, vault, and floor. We will also continue to further build out this Gymnastics program as our students continue to gain experience.

This summer, we will not only offer more of our typical gymnastics classes, but we are offering a few different Summer Day Camps that work in some gymnastics activities in addition to art, dance, or performance experiences. So far, we are very excited to see how the program has complimented our other initiatives. We can't wait to see what else the future holds.

If any of these programs interest you or your friends and family, please visit jacksonarts.org/gymnastics/ for more information and registration.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Stuart Kail
Director of Community Outreach & Marketing,
Walton Insurance Group

"The arts serve a critical role in a community and the Jackson School of the Arts is a beacon of hope for future generations to come. I'm honored to serve as a board member and support the equitable, impactful work the JSA is making in our community."

NEW LEAD CHILDCARE INSTRUCTOR

Ernie Marr III
Lead Instructor
JSA Childcare Academy

"I have worked in the Early Childhood Education field since1999 in a variety of settings such as schools and centers, which has given me the opportunity to make thousands of positive connections with children, parents, and staff. I pride myself on being consistent. When children have consistent staff, atmosphere, and schedules, they develop a sense of control, which in turn, promotes a learning environment where children can strive creatively, socially, and emotionally.

I'm married to my soul mate Joanne, and have three children, Maygann (19), Ernie IV (16), and Kaiden (6). We have two dogs, Roxy and Bolt as well as a cat, Pepper. I love spending time with my family and going fishing together and gardening. One of my passions is bowling. I'm an avid tournament bowler where I have compiled five local titles, two State titles and have acquired forty-eight perfect games and am eligible for the Greater Jackson Hall of Fame this year. I've also been a part of the GJYBA for 20 years where I've helped young children learn and love the sport of bowling.

Thank you again for the opportunity to enrich your child's life and to give them creative and educational opportunities to learn and grow and make great relationships along the way!"

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