



# KJSH Family Newsletter

February 2025

## KJSH Welcome

Thank you for trusting us with your child each day. The programs at KJSH include Big Picture Middle School, Big Picture High School, and Crossroads Academy. We are proud to work with our students each day and take great pride in our school! Your dedication and support of your child is essential to our success. We are always looking for ways to be supportive, inclusive, and helpful with families.



Our monthly newsletter is just one way we are trying to keep you informed about the great things happening at school along with some helpful information for families to use to encourage success. Please check out the highlights, updates, and important information below. We look forward to our continued partnership with you to help all students at KJSH achieve their goal of graduating from high school at a school that knows and cares about each student.

[\*\*Kenmore Junior/Senior High School Website\*\*](#)

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## New Assistant Principal and BP Advisor

We are very excited to introduce you to Karen Monaco as the KJSH Assistant Principal! Karen has been an Advisor, Coordinator, and English teacher at Big Picture for the past 9+ years. Karen was most recently the Advisor for the Big Picture 101 Violets Advisory. She will now be the Assistant Principal for all 7-12 Grade students



at KJSH. We look forward to Karen making connections with each program to provide support, insight, leadership, and improvement to our school.

We also welcome Dana McDougle to the Big Picture High School team! Dana is coming to us from KW and will be taking over as the Advisor for the 101 Violets. Dana has several years of experience and is a lifelong Ken-Ton product. Her energy and passion are welcomed additions to our school.

We are so excited to have both Karen and Dana take on these new positions at KJSH. Our school keeps getting better and these new additions are perfect examples of what I mean!!

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## Crossroads Academy Makes Balloon Rockets

Students in Astronomy/Oceanography at Crossroads Academy had fun participating in an astrodynamics project. Students were given various materials and balloons to create their own balloon rockets that would launch to a certain height. As an added challenge they had to add "payload", which is an astronaut's term for added weight on a rocket ship. The team that created a rocket with the most payload that successfully launched to the given height, won a prize!



**Preparing the balloon rocket.**



**Ready for launch!**



**Analyzing results.**

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## KJSH Therapy Dog

This year, KJSH welcomed its fluffiest new employee: Jack, our certified therapy dog! Jack works with students two days a week.

A therapy dog in schools helps reduce student stress and anxiety, creating a more positive and calming learning environment. Their presence can improve social skills, boost confidence, and provide emotional support for students facing challenges. Additionally, therapy dogs encourage a sense of responsibility and empathy, fostering a more compassionate and connected school community.

Students in Big Picture and Crossroads Academy have great things to say about Jack's impact:

**Emily W. & Elijah P. (801 Clovers)**

"He helps me when I'm upset and he sits with me. Petting him makes me feel better."

"It's easier to get work done when he's just sitting next to me."

**Jack B. (201 Blue)**

"When I'm stressed about an exam or anxious about entering the building, Jack calms me down and makes me feel like I can do it."

**Sammie S. & Ava C. (701 Moons)**

"He's a really sweet dog, wagging his tail, and smiling! It makes us feel happy too!"

**Maddy W. (401 Gold)**

"He's so comforting during hard times. Just seeing him brings up the mood."

**Michael K. & Amiyah B. (201 Reds)**

"He is quiet, he is kind, and he follows directions. He's a great role model for the whole school!"  
"I've always been scared of dogs, but Jack is so calm when I approach him that I've actually started petting him! Now I kind of like dogs."

**Kristin L. (Crossroads Academy Teacher)**

"He boosts and brightens our day when he comes to visit students in my room!"



**Jojo and Jack**



**Jack is always ready with a smile!**



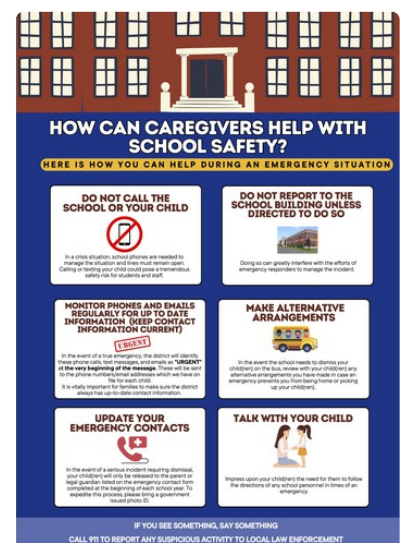
**School work is easier with Jack around**

## How Can Caregivers Help with School Safety?

The district has put together an infographic for caregivers to provide guidance during an emergency. You can click the photo on the right or click the button below to view the infographic. We hope this resource will be useful for families throughout the district.

Some highlights include:

- Do not call the school or your child.
- Do not report to the school building unless directed to do so.
- Monitor phones and emails regularly for up-to-date information.
- Make alternative arrangements.
- Update your emergency contacts.
- Talk with your child.





[Click here to view the Infographic](#)

## Phoenix Harvest Agricultural Measure

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The PHAM (Phoenix Harvest Agricultural Measure) team made major progress this fall. We have planted over twenty native plants, built a two rail fence, layered our space with cardboard and compost to help keep away weeds, and received support from the district Building and Grounds team to build our greenhouse. We are thankful for all the student involvement during the school day and can't wait to have students continue to join our after school club on Wednesdays.



Although the Winter weather caused us to transition indoors, we have not stopped our progress. Our fabulous art teacher, Jen Leone, has been working with 401 (Senior) Anna and our community member Logan Sauer from the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. They began working on our mural that will be installed on the main wall behind the garden. Our team is very excited Anna chose to create this mural as her Capstone Project. The PHAM team looks forward to utilizing this outdoor classroom space, as well as offering it to future students for their independent research projects.

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## District Library Resources

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### There's Nothing Quite Like Kids Helping Kids

The last week in January was a special week for Big Picture Middle School students. Pick-Me-Ups (PMU), which are usually facilitated by a teacher, were led by Miss Morgan's 201s' Advisory. These 10th grade students embraced this leadership opportunity and designed creative and innovative ways to engage the BP MS students. The first PMU was filled with interactive stations in the cafeteria and the second day was filled with Advisory relay races. BP MS is so grateful for this partnership with BP HS!



**201 Reds help with MS PMU**



**MS PMU is more fun with the 201 Reds!**



**Mymy leading the the MS students during PMU**

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## KJSH 2024-2025 Calendar

**Calendar**

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## Student Life at KJSH



### Hearts Advisory Student Performers

Sophia and Ezra from the Big Picture Middle School Hearts Advisory performed in the Franklin Middle School production of The Wizard of Oz recently! We are so proud of our talented students performing on stage. We look forward to seeing more productions from them in the future!!



### Crossroads Academy Student Has What It Takes

Owen Northington, a junior enrolled at Crossroads Academy, may have a set a district-wide record. Because of the snow days during Regents Week, which necessitated the rescheduling of Regents Exams, Owen had to take no fewer than THREE Regents Exams in a single day. And... HE PASSED ALL THREE! It took him 10 grueling hours to complete the three tests and it kept him at school until late in the evening, but it was worth it. Here is Owen celebrating his hat trick. What an incredible accomplishment!



## **Kenmore Junior/Senior High School**

**Website:** <https://www.ktufsd.org/Domain/1690>

**Location:** 155 Delaware Rd. Buffalo, NY 14217

**Phone:** (716) 874-8403

### **KJSH Phone Directory**

#### **Kenmore Junior/Senior High School**

Innovative educational programs for Ken-Ton students!