

# Crusader Chronicle

John F. Kennedy Catholic School 2016-2017

A Student Publication Quarter 1 Edition



## Welcoming our new priest, Father Jake!

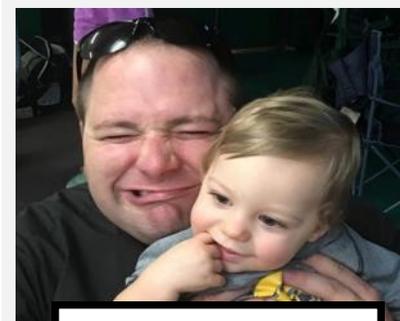
By: Allie A., Caroline C., Michael L.

We are excited to welcome our new priest, Father Jake Greiner, to JFK school and OLV church! Father Jake started his Catholic faith at a young age. He grew up in Keota, Iowa, where he attended Holy Trinity Catholic Church. In addition to attending Mass, Father Jake participated in many religious activities in his youth. Habitat for Humanity (an organization that builds homes for families in need), Catholics in Action (a program for volunteers throughout the diocese), as well as teaching religious education. Everybody can be inspired by someone to be the best person they can be, and, for Father Jake, it was the pastor he had growing up as well as Jesus. As a kid, Father Jake grew in his Catholic faith through his parents and some very good religion teachers.



While choosing his career Father Jake considered many jobs including a doctor, diplomat, and a farmer, but at the age of 22 he decided he wanted to serve God and people which began the path to his priesthood. Although Father Jake did want to be a priest, the road to priesthood was not easy. He studied to be a priest at St. Paul Seminary and went to school for six years. Before coming to the Quad Cities Father, Jake lived in Knoxville, Iowa, and preached at St. Anthony Catholic Church and Sacred Heart Church .

Although Father Jake did not exactly choose OLV himself, he and the OLV community agree that it's a great fit. At Father Jake's first All School Mass, he was very nervous because he did not want to mess up. Through his nerves, he still noticed and loved our people, school, and beautiful church . Father Jake would like to thank Monsignor Parizek because he had helped him prepare to take over his job in the OLV parish. Father Jake said that it felt extremely good to become a pastor of a large church, but he knows he will be busy. We hope that Father Jake feels welcome at JFK school and OLV church.



Fr. Jake & his twin!

## Youth Minister

By Noé F., Michael M., Brianna M., and Kristen B.

Being a youth minister isn't an easy job, but it is rewarding. Youth ministers help young people to be disciples of Jesus. Not only to believe, but to thrive in God's light! Our new youth minister, Mr. Evan Brankin, said he was called by God to do this job. He was born in Geneva, Illinois, but he lived in Williamsburg, Virginia, for eight years. He then went to the University of Ohio. After college, he lived in Japan for two years.

There are quite a few things Mr. Brankin likes about being a youth minister. He enjoys talking about God and walking around the cafeteria asking students questions about the Bible. When he was a kid he didn't even know a youth minister was a job! We all know who his hero is since he is most of ours as well; Jesus is his hero.

Mr. Brankin enjoys reading, martial arts, cooking, writing, playing the piano, dancing, and playing video games. He also speaks Japanese, Korean, French, and Italian. One thing that most sixth through eighth graders enjoy is junior high youth night on one Friday night a month. If a sixth through eighth grader wants to have a good time, they should try to come to one of these nights. One thing that we know for sure is that we should follow what Mr. Brankin says, "Never be afraid to talk to God."



## Mrs. Lippert

By: Sophia M. Nyliyah M. Hunter G.

Mrs. Lippert is our new fifth grade teacher here at JFK. If you haven't noticed yet, her last name changed from Rich to Lippert because she was married in September! She went to Missouri Western State University and earned her master's degree at Benedictine College. She used to live in St. Joseph, Missouri, before moving to Iowa. Mrs. Lippert has wanted to teach since she was very little because her mom was an art teacher. She has been teaching for seven years.

Mrs. Lippert thought that it would be a fun and exciting to teach fifth grade. She wants her students to learn a lot this year, to enjoy their lives, and to be the best they can be. A few things she enjoys about JFK are how nice and helpful all the kids and teachers are. It feels like everyone is one big family because of the friends she has made. Mrs. Lippert's favorite Gospel Value is respect and she loves to teach science. She wanted to teach at JFK because she heard it was a great school and she felt it was important to teach at a Catholic school. Mrs. Lippert is excited for a fun year here at JFK. Welcome to JFK Mrs. Lippert!



## Say hello to Mrs. Brownell!

By: Adie C. Owen S. Malayna A.

Mrs. Brownell is a new preschool aide this year at JFK in Mrs. Jordan's and Mrs. Blocker's classroom. Her family recently moved here from Texas. Her first job in education was at a preschool called Saint Christopher in Texas and this is her third year in education.. She enjoys JFK because it is a Catholic school and it is a perfect size. Also she likes the fact that we can learn about our faith. She also enjoys helping out in the preschool room because the kids are sweet and they usually enjoy their day. Some interesting facts about Mrs. Brownell is that her favorite subject is science and her hero is her grandma. She also has three kids at JFK: one in kindergarten, one in second grade, and one in eighth grade. Let's hope that Mrs. Brownell has a great time here at JFK. HERE WE GO!!!



## Mighty Mrs. Saxton!

By: Mason M., Isabella K., Natalie B.



Mrs. Saxton is an aide in Miss Epping's first grade class. Before Mrs. Saxton came to JFK, she was a stay-at-home mom for 12 years! She likes helping the first graders learn new things. She helps out by helping them with worksheets and following behind the line wherever they go. Mrs. Saxton said that she didn't see herself working as an aide, but we are glad she ended up here.

The main reason Mrs. Saxton wanted to become a first grade aide was because she likes to help the kids with projects like book reports and help the kids have a great day at school everyday. One thing Mrs. Saxton likes about JFK is that she likes working with the great staff here. Mrs. Saxton thinks the staff and students are very friendly and welcoming. She said that this community is great to be a part of. We are very happy to have Mrs. Saxton here this year at JFK.



Mrs. Saxton during WIN time

## Mrs. Baker is moving up!

By: Natalie P., Emily W., Delaney E.

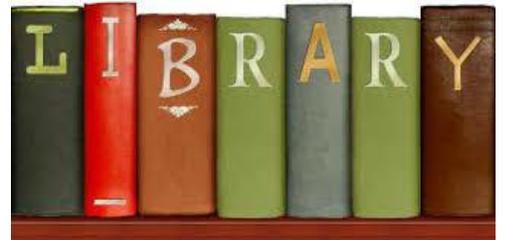


This year, Mrs. Baker has moved from preschool to being the new librarian and 6T's religion teacher. She said she misses preschool because the kids are cute and funny, but she enjoys her new job in the library because she gets to see all the students. Mrs. Baker likes to read books to all the kids that come into the library because she likes to give kids information. She has made changes in how things look in the library and reorganized where the books go.

She also has story time for the younger children, and teaches the older students how to use the library. She is also the sixth grade religion teacher for Mrs. Thomas's class and she said, "It is crazy, but fun to be the religion teacher and the librarian at the same time." If Mrs. Baker was not teaching at JFK, she said that she would work as a gardener or a landscaper.

Not only does Mrs. Baker have to adjust to the change, but Ms. Siefers and those who use the library do as well. Ms. Seifers' favorite part about having a new librarian is that Mrs. Baker had some new ideas that made her re-think the way they have been doing things. For instance, she put numbers on the tables to make it easier to break students into groups and give directions based on the table numbers. Ms. Seifers said, "Why didn't I think of that!"

The students also have to adjust to Mrs. Baker. We talked to Sophia M., Emma M., and Ava S. about Mrs. Baker and they said, "Although we miss Mrs. Thomas, we like Mrs. Baker because she is kind and lets us do fun things." We are sad Mrs. Thomas left, but we're really happy that we have Mrs. Baker as our new librarian! We hope Mrs. Baker has a good year at JFK.



## Ms. Geurink

By: Madison S., Quinn R., and Charles J.H.

Miss Geurink has recently switched from a fifth grade teacher to the new resource teacher in place of Mrs. Carey. She began her position this school year and she is already having a blast! She wanted to be a resource teacher and teach small groups. Miss Geurink was interested being a resource teacher from a reading clinic at St. Ambrose. She said that she likes how each day is different, but she does miss having her own class and teaching math.



Miss Geurink has enjoyed working with kindergarteners through sixth graders throughout this quarter. She helps teach student in many different ways. She helps by doing What I Need time (WIN), for kindergarten through second grade. She also helps by teaching phonics to children.



Miss Geurink working with students during WIN time

She does letter sounds and letter names as well. Miss Geurink said she mainly works with Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Neuberger. There are quite a few things that keep Miss Geurink busy outside of school. She likes to play with her two puppies, Lucy and Oakley. She has also enjoys teaching dance classes at Tina's Dance Studio. Hopefully she has a great rest of the year with her fellow teachers, students, and her new position!

## Welcoming back Mrs. Neuberger

By Stephanie C, Anna S., Michael V.



This year we are welcoming back Mrs. Neuberger as a new addition to our school as a resource teacher. She used to be a kindergarten teacher at JFK from 2000-2004, before Mrs. Motto. She then was a substitute teacher at JFK from 2004-2016. Now she helps kindergarten through sixth graders with reading and phonics. She uses flashcards, books, games, and her whiteboard to teach her students. Mrs. Neuberger has wanted to be a teacher since she was a little girl because she thought the teachers materials they used were cool. Her favorite part about JFK is the fact that it's a Catholic school. She also likes the atmosphere of the parish and the school with all the friendly teachers and JFK families. Let's all have a great year welcoming back Mrs. Neuberger and all the other staff and students to JFK.

## Welcome back Mrs. Daniel!



By: Mary D. ,Griffin E. , and Emma M.

Some of students here at JFK had Mrs. Daniel for a preschool teacher but for those of us at JFK who didn't, here are some things you might find interesting about her. Mrs. Daniel first started off as a nurse at the University of Iowa but after teaching a class about nutrition to preschoolers with puppets and fruit she knew teaching was something she loves. She decided to be a preschool teacher at JFK and she loved it, then sadly she had to move to Texas with her husband for his job. Now that they have moved back, "It feels like I belong here," she says.

She came back to JFK as a teacher aide with Mrs. Youngerman's class until 1:00 then she heads off to work with the second, third, and fifth graders. Her favorite thing to do in Mrs. Youngerman's room is "What I Need" Time also known as WIN time. Mrs. Daniel loves everything about JFK but her favorite thing is being in the different classrooms and seeing how the kids develop. She hopes she is a good role model and the kids look up to her and ask her questions. Welcome back Mrs. Daniel; we missed you!!!



Mrs. Daniel working with students during WIN time



Preschool through second grade enjoyed the fire truck visit to JFK during the first quarter!

## Improvements

By: Grace H., Kyla D., Addison R.

Around the beginning of June some changes were made around JFK! Have you noticed the new shiny floors in 4F, 7B, 7W, 8B, 8K, and both preschool rooms? The floors were replaced because those floors were in the worst shape; some rooms had duct tape down the seams of the carpet. Now the rooms look shiny and new!

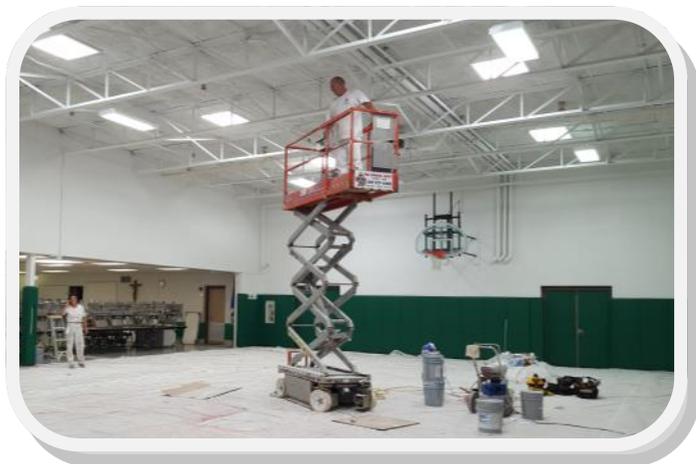
Around the second week of July, the contractors started work in the gym. Throughout the summer, they painted the walls and ceiling, placed new insulation around the roof drains that come through the ceiling, sanded down, waxed, and painted floors. The inside of the skylights were painted and the lenses were replaced. A new panel dividing the gym and cafeteria was installed, and a brand new scoreboard hangs on the wall.



Another change was converting the supply storage room to a new resource room. Mr. Sweeney and

Mr. Edens took out some shelves, repainted the room, and added a window into the door. Then, downstairs in a room the teachers call “the cage”, they had to build shelves for the storage that used to be upstairs.

Other exciting building updates are the two new play structures on the preschool playground and the movement of eleven sprinkler heads. A new freezer was installed in the kitchen and the exhaust hood was also repaired. In the copy room, the teachers’



bathroom has a new toilet. The flag light was replaced outside.

Most of these improvements had been planned since early spring, but some of them had been in the planning stages for as long as several years. These improvements were not cheap; all the improvements cost around \$55,000. Most of these funds came from the operating

Budget, the lunch program, and the Athletic Club/Home and School. The improvements aren’t finished yet, however.. The school is planning on making more improvements next year as repair priorities and immediate needs are reassessed. Here we go into the new school year with these amazing new improvements!

## Totally Rad Technology

By: Alex M., Helen S., and David L.

JFK has a lot of new technology! JFK has a new scoreboard that is wireless, brighter, and looks nicer too. The generous parent who donated the scoreboard is Mr. Dan Schimanski. The reason for getting a new scoreboard is that the old scoreboard was very old.

Another new way students are using technology this year is that the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are using physical fitness logs that are located on Google Drive. They have to log in daily and record their activity.

This year technology has especially changed for sixth grade. Brittany N. in 6T thinks it is pretty cool to use computers almost everyday. She likes using computers for tests and i-Ready because when we were little we did everything on paper. Plus, she thinks it is easier to access since they carry it around with them rather than going back and forth getting computers from different carts.

JFK also bought about 20 new chromebooks which were split between fifth and sixth grade. They are replacements for the older computers that came from Assumption High School. Ms. Siefers likes the chromebooks as replacements because they are small, their batteries last a long time on one charge, and they are easy to use. JFK also purchased an interactive projector for the ECLC classroom which Mrs. Fox is using with her preschool class. Kindergarten, first, and second grade classrooms each got five iPads for small group work. JFK also installed a new network to improve our wireless signal and speed. Here we go with another great year here at JFK with all of this great technology!

## Student Council

By: Brittany N., Gabe W., Alison B.

This year there are four different student council officers with amazing ideas for dress days and activities. Fun activities happening again this year are penny wars and the supply store. Student council will have the supply store on the third Friday of every month. This year for penny wars the class that collects the most money will win an ice cream sundae party. Student council is working hard to have one of the best years at JFK.

Our secretary this school year is Grace M. Grace has many different charity ideas such as pack backpacks full of food for people in our community. She suggested we collect donations for winter, and



JFK's 2016-2017  
Student Council Officers

*Article continued from the previous page...*

the class that collects the most earns a pizza party. She has great ideas for dress days such as neon clothes day, favorite hero day, and favorite character day. Josh R., our treasurer, talked about many fun and exciting ideas for activities. His ideas for dress days are faith day, wear your clothes from Christian camps or retreats. His second idea is American day when you wear red, white, and blue. One of his charity ideas is having a yard sale by selling gently used clothes and items and donate the money.



Our vice president is Elizabeth V. Elizabeth will be helping out with the supply store. Some of her charity ideas include having a food drive. We would collect cans of food and donate them. Last of all, we have our new president of JFK student council, Anastasia M. Anastasia has thought of new dress days and activities for charities. Her dress day ideas are mismatch everything day when you wear all your clothes mismatched. Another fun dress day she has is career day, you dress up as someone from your favorite career. Anastasia is working hard as our new JFK president.

Some students in 6T are excited for these dress days and service projects. Luke K. is excited about penny wars and collecting donations for winter. Isabella K. is also excited about pennys wars and is excited for packing backpacks for food and donating them to our community.

Student council has help from a few staff members including Mr. Connors, the band director and Mr. Ryan, the art teacher. Mr. Connors helps out with a little bit of everything for student council. Mr. Connors is in his third year helping student council. He enjoys the fundraisers and helping out other people. The students are a good leaders, willing to help others, and ambitious with the help of Mr. Connors. With student councils ideas, Mr. Connors liked penny wars last year, the best. Another staff member helping is Mr. Ryan. He enjoys pizza parties and getting to speak freely with all the students. Mr. Ryan helps students achieve their goals as a council; he enjoys the students speaking their own mind and likes them advocating for others. Mr. Ryan has been helping student council for four years. Staff members help student council with kindness, dedication, and letting the students speak with a growth mindset.

Student council is a way to express your thoughts and ideas. By expressing your thoughts you are making our school and community a better place. Our treasurer, vice president, president, and secretary work hard to make JFK a fun and exciting place. All of our teachers, staff members, and students help our school improve and will help make this a great school year!

## Magazine Sale

By: Lindsey G, McKenzie S, and Serine N.B

Did you sell or buy magazines for the magazine sale? If students sold magazines they were able to earn prizes such as the emoji key chains and many more! The sale started September 21st and ended on October 4th. The magazine sale raises money for the Athletic Club/Home and School, The money is used for things for the gym and playground equipment. This year our goal was 11,000 orders or \$21,000. This year we raised \$6,300, however that number could still climb with online sales.



The Great American Company, which is the company JFK uses every year, came up with the amazing prizes that students earned. Some prizes they could earn were the emoji tongue puller slingshot if they sold five magazines. If they sold ten magazines they earned color changing sunglasses. Other prizes students could earn if they sold between 15 and 100 magazines were the robo clip, light up smart flying ball, weGloz light show headphones, remote control stunt car, a remote control drone, inflatable chair, and a light up apple. If students sold at least fifteen magazines or were one of the top ten sellers they earned a pizza party!

Students could also sell magazines for Make a Wish foundation or donate to other organizations as well. If students sold magazines and then wrote their names on a star for the "Wish Wall", they were part of helping make a child's wish come true. Make a Wish foundation is a charity whose money goes to making a wish come true for a person who is suffering from a serious illness. Some wishes granted included trips to Disney World or meeting John Cena.

This year was Mrs. Tilkens' first year completely managing the sale. Mrs. Woerdehoff also helped with distribution of materials, organization, and handing out emojis. Thank you Great American and everybody that participated and helped in the magazine sale. It was a huge success!

## Mrs. Tilkens & Mr. Klotz are coming to town!

By Ava S, Jennifer P, and Luke K.

Mrs Tilkens is very busy this year in Physical Education. This year Mrs. Tilkens had a student teacher, Mr. Chris Klotz, for most of the first quarter. Mr. Klotz is the first student teacher for PE that JFK has had in at least eight years. Mr. Klotz attends Saint Ambrose University. He has been in college for five years altogether; two were at St. Ambrose and three at a different college. Mrs. Tilkens enjoyed the free time she had to do extra work as she was taught Mr. Klotz how to be an awesome PE teacher.



Speaking of Mrs. Tilkens, did you know her favorite part about teaching is that she gets to teach kindergarten through eighth grade and she gets to watch the students grow and mature every year? Mrs Tilkens' all time favorite thing to teach would be volleyball. One of her least favorite workouts would be the pacer test but she loves watching the students make pacer goals and meeting or exceeding them. She has made some new workouts this year for most students. Some students will be using medicine balls, weighted bars, and other exercises to help the body all over. At the beginning of the year, students had to have PE in other places, since the gym was being renovated. Students had PE in the library and sometimes outside.

Mr. Klotz wants to be a PE teacher because he has a lot of fun. Mr. Klotz's idol is his seventh grade PE teacher Mr. McGautha. Mr Klotz's favorite sport is hockey and a very close second is football. When he was younger he wanted to play as many sports as possible. The sports are exciting and you get to explore PE and enjoy the class. Mr. Klotz loves that he get to teach his own class. He thinks that it can be challenging to work with eighth grade then going down to Kindergarten and back up to fifth grade. The best part about student teaching is getting to work with Mrs. Tilkens and working with the students. Thank you Mr. Klotz for making PE even more fun and thank you Mrs. Tilkens for teaching him how to be an awesome PE teacher!

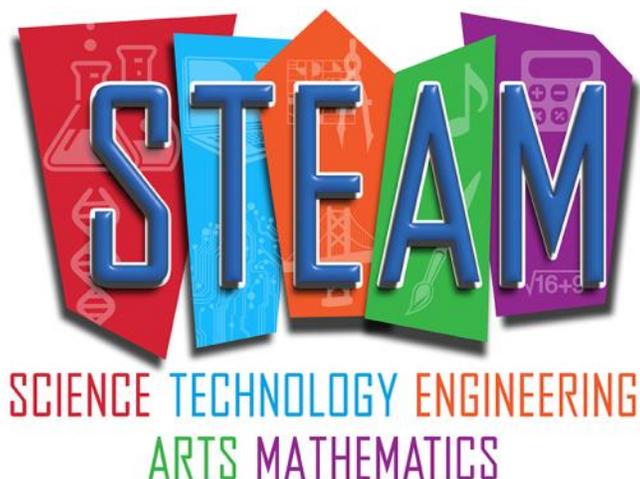


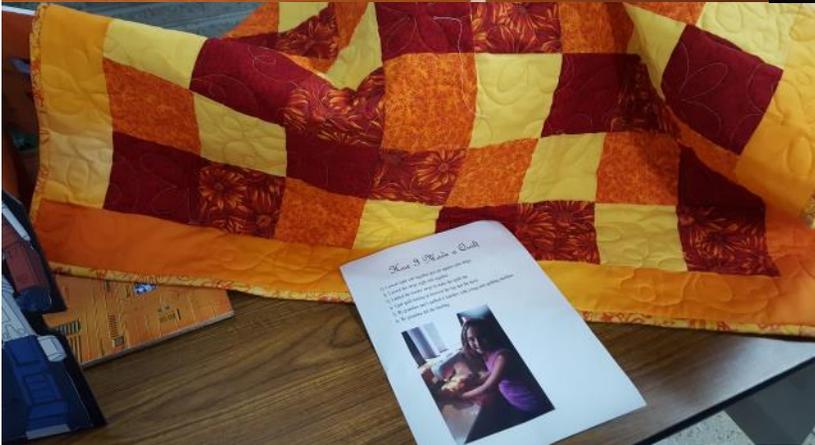
## Summer STEAM Project

By: Lily H., Emily M., Keaton T.

Summer is fun, but some kids don't get enough education over the three months of summer. JFK's guidance counselor, Mrs. Schott, came up with a way to fix that problem. Her son wanted to make a Minecraft video to put on YouTube, but she said, "No way, Jose." So instead, he thought about making a video about the landscapes and landforms of Colorado. Then the Holy Spirit came to her and gave her the idea to do the summer projects along with the reading log. Mrs. Schott and all of the students who completed the projects really enjoyed them. They were even mentioned in *The Catholic Messenger*.

Some of the projects included: baking, maintaining a pool, making gardens, connecting circuits and so much more! A lot of JFK students participated in the projects, but 6W had the most participants. The students of 6W who participated were Caroline C., Allie A., Anna S., and Adie C. Allie made a project on how to maintain a pool. She used borax, testing strips and chlorine. She did her project for about a month. Adie C. made cookies from scratch. She did this project for the whole summer. She used the oven, spices, and dough. The reason why she wanted to do the project is because it sounded delightful. All students who completed projects received a prize, which was a jeans day pass. We are looking forward to seeing some exciting summer steam projects next year!



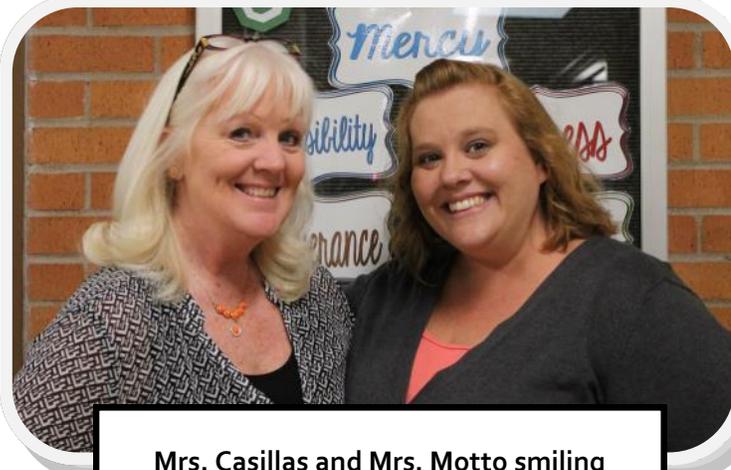


# Summer STEAM Projects

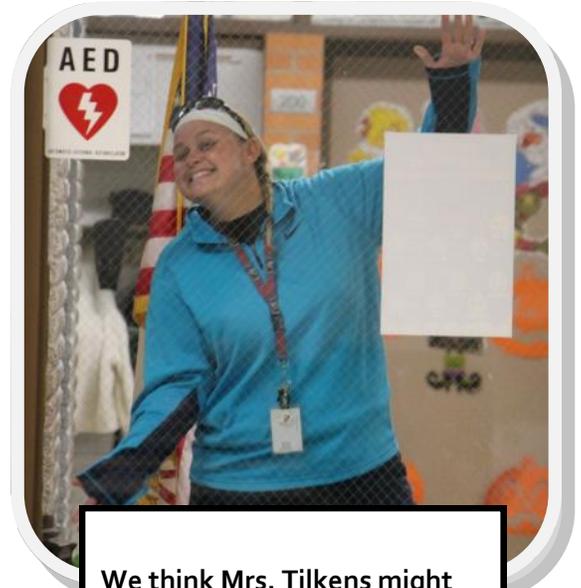




# Pictures Around JFK



Mrs. Casillas and Mrs. Motto smiling because it's an awesome year at JFK!



We think Mrs. Tilkens might have had too much coffee!



Honey the Therapy Dog visits with 5AL! Everyone is enjoying Honey's presence at JFK!

*Photo submitted by Mrs. Lippert*