J.W. REED CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Monthly Reed

OCTOBER 30, 2026 - VOL 1.| ISSUE 2

JWRCA Spirit Week!

Five Days of Warrior Pride!

BY MYLA LONG

October 12–16 marked one of the most anticipated events of the school year: Spirit Week! Students, teachers, and staff at JWRCA don't take Spirit Week lightly. From the first day to the last, Warriors go all out!

Spirit Week wasn't just about dressing up or getting a break from wearing uniforms. It's a time to come together and stay connected, not just as a school, but as a family, and build memories that students will never forget.

Marvel Monday kicked off the first day of Spirit Week. It was amazing to see so many Warriors dressed up as or representing their favorite Marvel characters. It was exciting to see the JWRCA hallways filled with students, staff, and teachers channeling their inner superheroes.

On our second day, **Toon Tuesday**, the Warriors brought their favorite cartoons to life. Students and staff dressed as their favorite cartoon characters or wore outfits inspired by them. From classic cartoons to today's favorites, everyone brought a little colorful cartoon fun to the school!

Students, staff, and teachers headed to the Wild West for **Western Wednesday**! Dressed in cowboy hats, boots, bandanas, plaid shirts, and denim, Warriors showed us how to do Western style right. The school was full of cowboy spirit, and everyone was ready to ride!

Then, JWRCA traveled back in time for **Throwback Thursday**! Warriors picked their favorite decades and brought them back to life through fashion. From the '50s, 'to the early 2000s, it was fun to see everyone show off their best old-school looks. The day was all about celebrating the past with a little Warrior flair.

Friday was the main event, **Warrior Spirit Day**! Warriors showed off their school pride, filling the hallways with burgundy and gold!

One of the biggest highlights of the day was "Duct Tape the Principal!". It was a huge success, and everyone had a blast! A special thank-you to Principal Ross for being such a good sport and helping make the day memorable.

Please see WEEK, Page 2







PHOTOS: ESIAH MORISHITA
TOP: Students channel their inner superhero for Marvel Monday. MIDDLE: Toon Tuesday characters. BOTTOM: Students wait in line to attach their purchased strips of duct tape to Principal Ross.

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Question of the Month

What is your ultimate comfort food once the weather turns chilly?

Daniella Pruitt '28: Ice cream

Ms. Robin Johnson: Shrimp and rice

Esiah Morishita '27: Ramen noodles with hot sauce and scrambled eggs

JWRCA FEATURE

MEET MAXIMUS, OUR MASCOT!

BY DANIELLA PRUITT

Every school has a symbol that represents their pride and spirit, and now we at JWRCA have our own: Maximus, our official mascot!

Dressed in striking burgundy and gold armor, Maximus is a noble knight who proudly wears the armor of God, showing the Warrior values of courage, integrity, determination, and strength. While he may not currently walk through the halls or appear at events in person, his image serves as reminder of the character and school spirit we strive to show every day.



As a Warrior, Maximus symbolizes more than just school pride. He represents the dedication of our students, the support of our staff, and the shared commitment of our school community to grow, learn, and succeed together.

Keep an eye out for Maximus throughout the year in our school newspapers. He may not be a physical mascot, but he'll always be ready to lead the Warriors forward!

Welcome to the team, Maximus!🛡️

💛❤️

Five Days, Countless Memories

WEEK continued from page 1

Students also casted their vote for our 2026–2027 Homecoming King and Queen after seeing the candidates' amazing flyers and hear their outstanding campaign speeches.

From superheroes and cartoon characters to cowboy boots, retro fashion, and burgundy-and-gold pride, Spirit Week will be remembered as five excitement-packed days of laughter and unforgettable memories.

A huge thank-you to everyone who participated and helped make Spirit Week such a success. Each day reminded us that being a Warrior means more than wearing our school colors. It means coming together, supporting one another, and celebrating the family we share at JWRCA.

That's five days of Warrior pride! Once a Warrior, always a Warrior. Go Warriors! 🍂

Homecoming: King and Queen Crowned



BY MYLA LONG

On Monday, October 19th, the results of the anticipated Homecoming voting were revealed.

Jerrel Pruitt '27 and **Jazelle Bahena '28** were announced as the 2026-2027, Homecoming King and Queen! Congratulations to both of you! We are so proud of you and are excited that you represent JWRCA!

A big thank-you to all the members of the Homecoming Court for their participation and effort!

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TEACHER FEATURE

Meet Ms. Annette Wright, JWRCA's veteran teacher!

BY TAVAR BUTTS

For the past 15 years, Ms. Annette Wright has witnessed J.W. Reed Christian Academy grow and change in many ways. From its early beginnings as a homeschool co-op to its continued growth and accreditation, she has been part of a journey filled with memories, lessons, and achievements.

When Ms. Annette began teaching at the school, Ms. Jacquie Browne was the principal, and the homeschool program operated Monday through Thursday. Ms. Annette remembers being especially attenative in those early days. As the school began holding festivals, she noticed it growing and beginning to feel more like a school.



PHOTOS: GABRIEL WEBER

RIGHT: 15 year JWRCA veteran Ms. Annette grades papers in her classroom. CENTER: Ms. Annette instructs her 5th grade students. BOTTOM: Ms. Annette and senior Jerrel Pruitt '27, pose for the camera during a community event where students volunteered for their Christian Service hours.

Over the years, Ms. Annette has seen growth in the school's appearance, accreditation, and overall environment. She explained that she continues to see growth every year, making each new school year another opportunity for improvement.

Watching students graduate, then seeing former students get married and raise families of their own, stands out among Ms. Annette's most memorable experiences. Reflecting on the many moments she has shared with students over the years, she finds joy in watching them thrive in positive ways.

Although she is the teacher, Ms. Annette believes her students have taught her valuable lessons as well. She shared that they have taught her to be herself, keep going, and



continue striving for greatness. Their influence has encouraged her to keep growing both personally and professionally.

Above all, Ms. Annette remains committed to her students and wants to keep improving to better serve their needs. Her motivation to continue teaching also comes from her belief in the vision of Bishop Jeremiah Reed and Mother Reed, as well as the continued vision of Pastor Dwight.

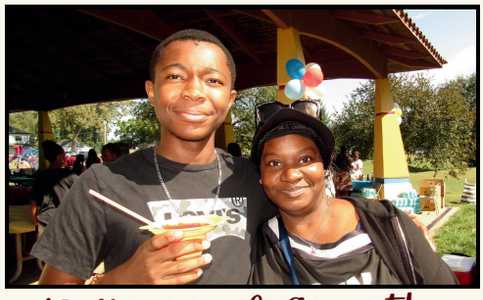
One message Ms. Annette hopes her students will always remember is how much she loves them, no matter what they go through in life. She also hopes they carry the values of dedication and a strong work ethic with them wherever they go.

Like any teacher, Ms. Annette has faced challenges throughout her career. She openly acknowledged making mistakes over the years but explained that she has never allowed those mistakes to hold her back. She expressed gratitude for the guidance and support her pastor has provided throughout her journey.

For Ms. Annette, teaching is about more than classroom lessons: it is about building relationships, learning from one another, and making a lasting difference in students' lives. After 15 years, her story reflects perseverance, faith, and commitment. Through the school's growth and the many lives she has touched, she continues to believe in helping students become the best versions of themselves.

"I WANT THEM TO REMEMBER HOW MUCH I LOVE THEM, NO MATTER WHAT THEY GO THROUGH IN LIFE."

Ms. Annette Wright



15 years of Growth, Dedication, and Love for Students!

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Meet Gabriel Weber '27, one of our only seniors who has been here for their whole career.



PHOTOS: ESIAH MORISHITA

BY MYLA LONG

Gabriel's 12 years at J.W. Reed Christian Academy have given him a special connection to the school and a meaningful experience that few students share. He first attended the academy's preschool in November 2012, while his mom taught at the school, and officially began in August 2013. Over the years, he has watched the academy change and grow into what it is today. Along the way, he has learned valuable lessons and had opportunities that have helped shape who he is today.

Gabriel has worked as a student intern at AON Studios, helps with his church's livestream broadcast, and occasionally works behind the camera. These experiences have given him opportunities to develop his skills and contribute to different projects in life and at school.

Outside of school and work, Gabriel enjoys photography. He especially likes capturing special moments, big milestones, funny memories, and the simple everyday moments that stay with him. Music and clothing are also part of his life: he enjoys listening to music and buying clothes to express his personality. His strong interest in history draws him to learning about the past and how it affects the world today, and he is also very knowledgeable about cars.

In addition to his other interests, Gabriel serves as the treasurer of the student council. He takes money management seriously and understands the importance of being responsible with finances.

As Gabriel continues his senior year, his years at J.W. Reed Christian Academy serve as a reminder of how much he has grown and how many memories he has made along the way.





GABRIEL WEBER SNAPSHOT

1 — Senior year
2 — Big & Little Brother
3 — "Uncs"
4 — Photographer
5 — Student Council treasurer
6 — Attending University of Iowa
7 — Anesthesiology

"Quality over quantity."
— Gabe

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Meet A'tya Hobbs



A Sixth Grader With A Big Heart

GETTING TO KNOW A'TYA

A'tya has been attending J.W. Reed Christian Academy since kindergarten and has been flourishing ever since. Now in sixth grade, she is making the most of her school year. When you meet A'tya, you can feel her positive energy and see how much she loves helping others, learning new things, and having a good time. But don't let that fool you; she isn't afraid to speak up or share her opinion, either!

BY MYLA LONG

PHOTO: GABRIEL WEBER

Inquiring Minds

What has going to school taught you about yourself?
"Going to J.W. Reed Christian Academy has taught me about myself by helping me build my character and grow. The school has also taught me to keep going so I can achieve my dreams."

What are you looking forward to this year?
"I am looking forward to an amazing year full of happy faces and smiles. I'm extremely excited to see who steps up when the seniors graduate."

What do you enjoy most about school?
"What I enjoy most about school is seeing our school grow. I enjoy seeing the seniors achieve their goals and seeing how I can achieve mine."

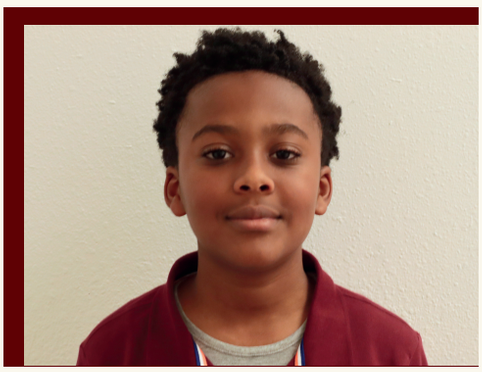
How has this school impacted you?
"J.W. Reed Christian Academy's impact on me has changed the whole way I envision the world. Our school has shown me how to spread the Lord's love, just as my school has done for me."

A Sixth Grader with a Voice

Although she is only in sixth grade, A'tya has a good head on her shoulders and knows what she wants to achieve in life. Her determination, positive attitude, and willingness to help others inspire those around her to become better. Through her actions, she shows how much she cares about her school and how committed she is to doing her best.

As A'tya continues to grow, learn, and discover her passions, she reminds us that making a difference doesn't depend on your age. Sometimes, all it takes is a big heart, being willing, a positive attitude, and the determination to keep reaching for your dreams.

THE ELEMENTARY EDITION



PHOTOS: GABRIEL WEBER

BY MAKIHA SHADE

For Michael Bryant, a sixth grade student at J.W. Reed Christian Academy, feeling like he belongs starts with having friends who make each day better. Michael shared that having friends who "lift up my day" is one of the things that makes school feel special.

One person who has made a positive difference in Michael's life is Ms. Annette. He described her as someone who is always positive and encourages him to keep going. Ms. Annette is also the person who inspires Michael the most at school because she is so supportive.

Faith has also played an important role in Michael's experience at J.W. Reed. He said that one thing he has learned about himself is that he "can do anything through Christ." His friends have also helped him grow in his faith by sharing Bible Scriptures with him.

Some of Michael's favorite memories involve track and field. He especially remembers participating in races with his classmates. Track and field was also his favorite school event.

Looking back on the school year, Michael said one accomplishment he is proud of is getting all of his work done. Through friendships, encouragement, faith, and hard work, Michael continues to grow both in and out of the classroom.

THE ELEMENTARY INSIDER

1st and 2nd grade teacher Mrs. MeChelle Brown

A Teacher Who Leads with Faith and Perseverance

Mechelle Brown, a 1st and 2nd grade teacher at J.W. Reed Christian Academy, believes that teaching is more than helping students learn academics. For Brown, it is also about helping children grow, overcome challenges, and understand God's love.

Mrs. Brown said she chose to teach at JWRCA because she believes God called her to do it. She said she listens for God's voice, even when it comes through unexpected people.

One of her favorite parts of teaching is seeing "the joy on each student's face when they are getting the concept." She enjoys watching students understand something they may have struggled with before.

She also shared a story about a student who taught her an important lesson about patience. The student had difficulty adjusting to the elementary side and did not initially want her to be there. Over time, however, they developed a strong relationship. Mrs. Brown said the experience helped her become more patient and showed the student that she was there to help, not hurt.

One of her most memorable teaching experiences happened when she was 23 and working as a substitute teacher in Illinois. She met a student named Corey, who had sickle cell anemia. Corey became attached to her and she later had the opportunity to visit him in the hospital. Mrs. Brown said the experience showed her how much of an impact a teacher can have on a child, even in a short amount of time.





MS. SHERINA DAVIS' PRESCHOOL CLASS

Preschool Enjoys Fall Fun and Classroom Activities

Ms. Sherina Davis, preschool teacher at J.W. Reed Christian Academy, shared some of the fun activities her class has been enjoying this fall.

Recently, the preschool class visited a pumpkin patch. "It was a great experience. It was fun, and we had very good weather," Ms. Davis said.

The fun does not stop there. The preschool students have a Halloween party coming up and will also celebrate a birthday together. In class, the students are decorating pumpkin cookies and creating fun fall crafts, including pumpkin and leaf art.

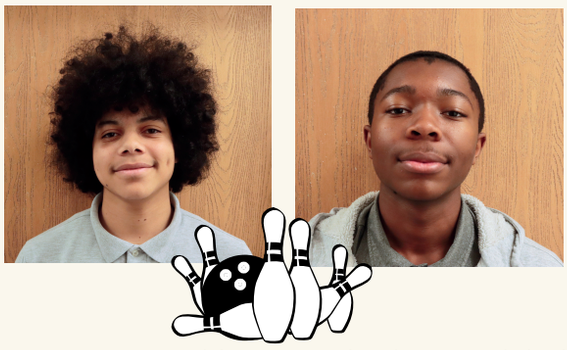
After Halloween, the class will begin preparing for Thanksgiving and other seasonal activities. Ms. Davis said that teaching on the elementary side has been "very, very busy," but the students have plenty of exciting activities to look forward to.

BEYOND THE SCORE

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

BY ABRIELLE RATLIFF

As autumn winds cool down and the first snowstorm looms on the horizon, sports are officially retreating indoors. While the fields outside fall quiet, the energy inside the gym and bowling alleys are just getting fired up. The official winter sports season doesn't kick off until November, but our athletes are already locked in, and fueled by fresh goals and high expectations. These athletes were asked:



What are you most excited about this winter sport season?



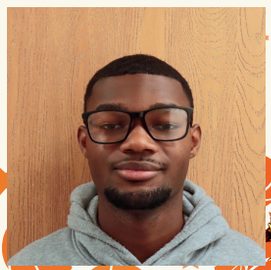
For some, this season is about reclaiming past passion. **Gabriel Weber '27** is stepping onto the lanes, eager to play a sport competitively, for the first time since eighth grade. He isn't the only one who's knocking down pins; **Jerrel Pruitt '27** is treating this season as a masterclass, looking forward to learning the deeper intricacies of the game of bowling while, naturally, racking up as many strikes as possible.

The spirit of competition is a massive theme across the roster this year. Our juniors **Jazelle Bahena '28** and **Tavar Butts '28** are both eager to see how their knowledge of the game translates on the basketball court. Both hoopers are most excited about playing alongside a brand-new squad and testing their skills against rival schools once the schedule officially begins.

Girls basketball starts December 1, 2026 and **Simone Henlon '27,** is looking at this season as a clean slate. "I'm looking forward to falling in love with basketball again," she shared, emphasizing the thrill of the game itself. "I want to get to know my coaches and just have fun while playing with total freedom."

For **Aubriana Henlon '28** the excitement is tangible—nothing beats the feeling of finally getting and wearing her official basketball jersey, representing the school with pride. Meanwhile, multi-sport athletes like **Makiha Shade '28** are already keeping the bigger picture in mind, using the intense winter conditioning to stay sharp and prepare for the upcoming track season.

Of course, all this excitement and anticipation starts long before the first whistle blows, strike is thrown, or the first ball is dunked.







STARTING SCHEDULES

East Boys Bowling
1st game - **Monday, November 16th, 2026**
@ 3:00 PM @ Bowlerama Lanes, DSM

East Girls Basketball
1st game - **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**
@ 4:45 PM (JV), 6:15 PM (Varsity)
@ Marshalltown

East Boys Basketball
1st game - **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**
@ 4:45 PM (JV), 7:45 PM (Varsity)
@ Marshalltown

The temperatures outside might be dropping, but these winter warriors are ready to bring the heat. Be sure to catch them in action when competition officially begins this November/December.

WARRIORS ON THE MOVE

Events: Past & Present

BY SIMONE HENLON

River Wood Elementary

During the month of September, the J.W. Reed Christian Academy Board of Directors selected four students to read their original poems at River Wood Elementary School. Melayna D. '27, Myla L. '27, Daniella P. '28, and Simone H. '27, penned some beautiful and thought-provoking poems. The kids were in awe and enjoyed the presence of their student visitors.

High School Courthouse Trip!

On Wednesday, October 12th, the seniors dove into the political arena at the U.S. Courthouse in downtown Des Moines to talk to Senator Chuck Grassley. This was his 7th time hosting a Federal Judicial Youth Summit. The seniors experienced a warm, genuine welcoming upon meeting and taking photos with Sen. Grassley. He showed his investment in young people by allowing the seniors to ask questions, later providing contact information and encouraging them to email him in the future. They also learned about dedication and genuine efforts to make the state and country better. He talked to our upper classmen about how he spends 80% of his weekdays in Washington and the other 20%, (which is his family time) in Iowa handling the political affairs here.

Volunteer Weekend

During the October 9-11 weekend, a number of students were selected to volunteer to help prepare meals at Meals from the Heartland's Annual Hunger Fight 2026. The overall goal of the program was to assemble 1.75 million nutritious meals for those in need. They contributed to their cause for the annual Hunger Fight! The goal was to assemble 1.75 million nutritious meals that can have a positive impact on the body.

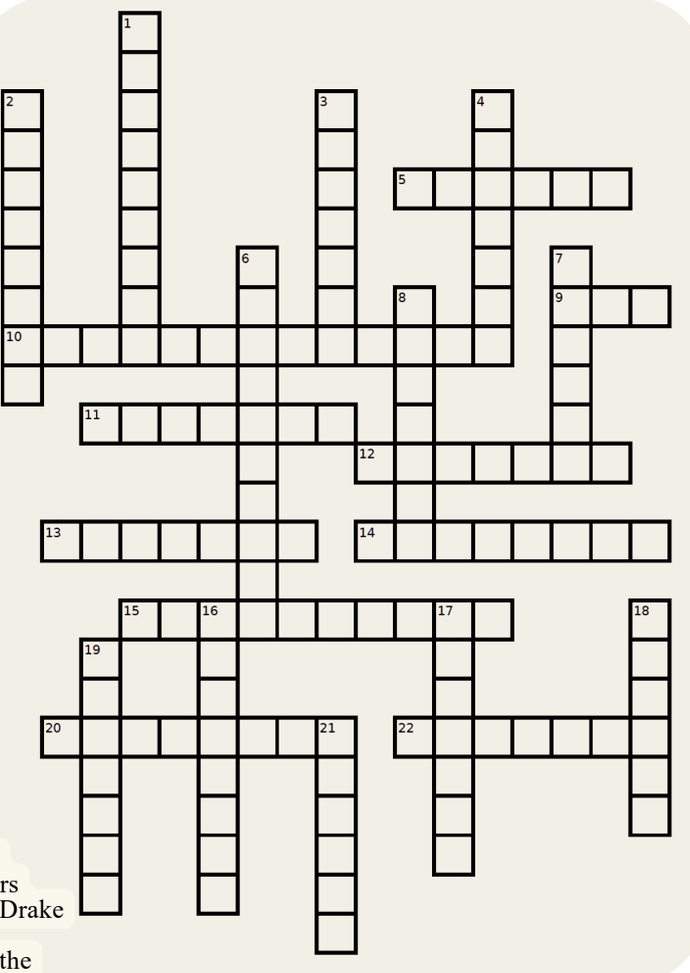


ORDER YOUR PICTURES

Order forms for student pictures will be sent home Monday, November 2nd.

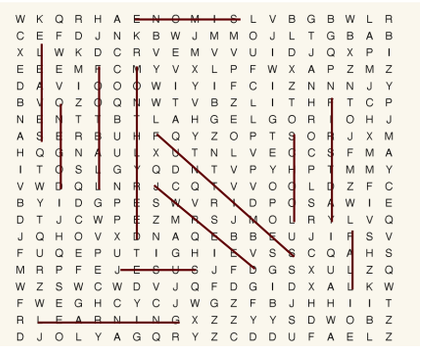
UPCOMING EVENTS:

No School: November 4 -6
Thanksgiving break: November 23 - 27
Winter break: December 23 - January 1, 2027



Down:
1.Something A'tya says her school has helped her build
2. First name of Bishop Reed, one of the school founders
3. Student who received the presidential scholarship at Drake University
4. First name of the football player featured in Beyond the Score
6. October 12-16 school celebration with themed days
7. First name of the volleyball player featured in Beyond the Score
8. Subject Gabriel enjoys studying to understand the past
16. Collectibles A'tya enjoys playing with
17. The school's only ninth grader this year
18. First name of the swimmer featured in Beyond the Score
19. New elective offered to upper grades this school year
21. Senior who plays drums and reads morning scripture

Across:
5. Name of Simone's singing group with her siblings
9. Studios where Gabriel worked as an intern
10. Milestone the academy achieved in January 2024
11. First name of Ms. Davis, also known as Aunt Pudge.
12. Winter sport
13. Senior who enjoys photography and has attended the academy since preschool
14. Musical performance attended by the College Prep class
15. Winter sport
20. The academy's team and student nickname
22. Length of time Ms. Annette has been at the school



WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

Can YOU find 9 others?



Answers will be in next month's issue.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE NEXT?

Got ideas for the next issue of The Monthly Reed? Email us your suggestions to staff at TMR@JWReedChristianAcademy.org and see if yours gets picked.

NOTICE

Nov - Dec issues will be combined due to the scheduled breaks.

Corrections:

In Issue 1, Timothy Bush was listed as an 8th grader, he is in 7th grade.