JEFFERSON NEWS

"LEADING OUR CHILDREN INTO TOMORROW"

The mission of the Jefferson School is to provide a safe environment that will encourage a lifelong love of learning. We wish to develop the academic, social, and emotional well being of a diverse student body to create well rounded citizens.

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

Yes, the holiday season is officially behind us now as we march into 2010. The year ended with a "flurry" of activity

which included our wonderful Holiday Open House and Concert and our Holiday Sing-a-Long. What a great, festive season we had here at Jefferson School! Thanks go out to the Jefferson School Parents' Association, Mrs. Bullen, Mrs. Quirk, Mrs. Hildebrandt, Mrs. Lee and the class parents for all their hard work in bringing the holiday spirit to our school.

As the New Year begins we set our sights on our goals and vision for 2010. We will focus on promoting reading and writing in the classroom and encouraging more families and friends to check the homeworknow.com website to view homework assignments for each class.

The Accelerated Reader Program has taken off here at our school. Just ask your child to explain how this online system works. Students can read a book, and then take an online three minute comprehension test on the book. This program can be accessed at home as it is in school. We are hoping to encourage all our students to read more by setting grade level goals for our students and challenge them to reach their goals using the Accelerated Reader Program as a means of promoting a love of independent reading.

We are writing more and more here at Jefferson School. Our teachers and Reading Specialist, Mrs. Blasius, have been working with each class to help improve the quality of student writing. It is important that students understand that writing does not come easily for everyone. It can be a hard, laborious task requiring a great deal of practice and revision; however, it is a craft that needs to be practiced in order to improve. Our teachers are using their writing folders and various prompts to help encourage writing as something that should not be feared but rather enjoyed. Please check your child's writing homework and ask him/her about

what they are doing in class to become better writers.

Our NJASK Extended Day classes are gearing up again for a February start. We will be sending notices/schedules home over the next few weeks to invite students, who may need some help in testing-taking strategies specific to the NJASK, to attend the extended day classes.

Keep in mind that in January we plan projects centered around the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his contribution to our country. School will be closed on Monday, January 18th in honor of Dr. King.

Our Parents' Association will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 19th at 7:00pm. Please try to attend and stay "in the loop" regarding any information you'll ever need to know about our school.

My thanks to the 150 families that returned the Jefferson School Homework Survey form. Approximately 69% of our school population completed the survey and the information taken from your results will go far in helping us refocus our efforts on homework, the homeworknow.com website, and a push for an after school "Homework Clinic" here at Jefferson School. Thank you for your support in completing the homework survey.

Our district is fortunate to welcome Dr. Janice Dime as interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Dime brings much experience and a wealth of knowledge to this important position. She has visited our school and was very impressed with the quality of teaching and learning taking place here. I am excited to be working alongside such a well versed, quality professional who shares our common belief of "Children First." Welcome Dr. Dime!

Just a reminder to update all personal information so that we can make sure that you are part of our snow emergency chain. As the temperature drops and the snow clouds loom overhead we want to be able to communicate quickly and effectively with all our families and friends just in case of a school closing.

On that note, I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone around our school campus and welcome your involvement in your child's education. As always,

my door is always open if you need me.

Yours with Jefferson School Pride,

STUDENT ATTENDANCE NEW PHONE SYSTEM

The District now has a new phone system. If your child is absent please call us at **201-385-8804**



and when you get the main menu press 1 for the attendance line and leave a message. You can also call the school during our regular office hours. This is particularly important if your child will be late getting to school. We hope you will all stay very healthy so we can enjoy every day with your child.



WE THE PROUD STUDENTS OF IEFFERSON SCHOOL PLEDGE TO TRY *OUR* **BEST** TO**ACHIEVE** OUR**PERSONAL** ANDSCHOOL-WIDE GOALS. WE **ACADEMIC** ARE DETERMINED TO SUCCEED IN OUR CLASSROOMS BYSTUDYING. LISTENING TO OUR TEACHERS, AND COMPLETING OUR HOMEWORK TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.

WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD TREAT EACH OTHER AND THE FACULTY AND STAFF WITH RESPECT. WE SHOULD BE FAIR, HONEST, AND TRY TO CREATE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS. WE PLEDGE TO CREATE A POSITIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERYONE FEELS RESPECTED, SAFE, AND PART OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

WE BELIEVE THAT EACH OF US IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPECTING
SCHOOL RULES AND PROPERTY. WE
WILL WORK TOGETHER TO SHOW
PRIDE IN OUR SCHOOL BY KEEPING
IT SAFE AND CLEAN. WE PLEDGE TO
PROTECT THE SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENT BY RECYCLING AND
DOING ALL WE CAN TO MAKE OUR
SCHOOL A HEALTHY PLACE FOR ALL.

WE PLEDGE TO BE GOOD CITIZENS OF OUR SCHOOL, LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND OUR COUNTRY AND TO MAKE ALL WHO KNOW US PROUD OF EVERYTHING WE DO.

From the Health Office:

<u>Healthy Happenings</u> for January:



Welcome back to everyone! My wish for the New Year is for good health to all of our Jefferson family.

Appropriate Dress for the Cold Weather:

The cold weather continues. Please make sure your child comes to school prepared for outdoor temperatures by wearing winter coats, sweaters, hats and gloves or mittens.

We assess outdoor temperatures daily and then determine whether the children have will outdoor recess at lunch time. If your child has any difficulties with the cold weather i.e. asthma symptoms or if they have a cold, please let us know and we can adjust their recess accordingly. If your

child has gym, please make sure she/he has sneakers that day. They cannot wear boots to gym.

Dental Day:

February is dental month. Each year **Give Kids A Smile** program offers a free dental visit. This year's date is February 5th. I will be sending home flyers about this program and have information about sites that are offering this service in Bergen County. It is necessary to register for this event. Please contact me if you need further information.

Nutrition Tips:

Health Benefits of fiber:

- curbs overeating and helps fight against childhood obesity
- prevents constipation
- lowers LDL(bad) cholesterol
- helps prevent heart disease and diabetes

Fiber is part of foods like fruits, vegetables and grains. For children a general rule for how much fiber they should be getting is their age plus 5. For example a 10 year old should get at least 15 grams of fiber per day. When you buy cereal or bread at the store, look at the **Nutrition Facts.** If the food has **3 grams** of fiber per serving it is a good source of fiber; **5 grams** per serving is excellent. Remember children should have at least 4-5 servings of fruits or vegetables per day.

Youth Power Projects:

Recycling Projects:

We continue to collect plastic bottles, plastic bottle caps and batteries.

Cell phones: We are collecting used and broken cell phones for an organization that provides calling cards for our soldiers overseas so that they can call home. This will be an ongoing project throughout the year.

Our youth power projects this year will focus on our soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. This past Christmas, our students sent Christmas messages to Corporal Dan Freeman, a former Jefferson School student, who is currently serving in Iraq. Their messages were filled with thoughtful wishes for the soldier to be safe and return home.

If anyone has heard of any service projects that assist our servicemen please let us know and perhaps we can incorporate this into our program.

Happy New Year!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM KINDERGARTEN

Although it seems as if December came and went, the kindergarten class did so many exciting activities. The most interesting thing we did was studying the writing process. We began by talking about what activities we do in the winter. The students brainstormed a variety of ideas, and used

them to write rough drafts about their favorite winter activity. After, the students and I held individual editing conferences and we corrected things like capitalization and punctuation. The students did a fantastic job of using their knowledge of letter



sounds to do their independent kindergarten spelling.

Following the conference, students wrote their final copies complete with illustrations and even a cover! The students felt extremely proud of their finished products and loved seeing their names as the actual author and illustrator of a story. It was so exciting to see the children work on this project step by step over the course of several days. The children really saw how writing is a process and they valued taking their time to do their neatest work.

We have also been working on a daily basis with different types of counting. Everyday the students practice their counting skills with the help of their friend "Wormy". Your child should now be able to count forward to 75 by one's and ten's and backwards from 15. We have also been working on interrupted counting where a student starts counting at 0 and is stopped at a certain point - then continues counting from a different number (not starting back at zero). This concept can be a little tricky so practice is important. We've turned it into a game where the girls begin counting and after the teacher holds up a stop sign the boys pick up where they left off. You can play this at home as well using any red circle as a stop sign.

Towards the month of December, on a rather "sweet" note, we had a delicious cookie making party with the help of some wonderful family volunteers. It was great to see the children and their families, roll up their sleeves and work together to make the special cookies that the children, in the end shared, with each other. Many valuable lessons such as sharing, patience, and teamwork were demonstrated by all who participated. It was truly a very memorable experience for all who were involved. A special thank you to all of our class parents for organizing a great holiday party.

A GREAT START TO WINTER IN FIRST GRADE

We have had a great start to the winter season in the first grade. December has flown by, and was full of fun activities and lots of learning. The hard work that we did with Mrs. Hildebrandt for our winter open house is hanging in the hallways outside our classrooms. We worked to make these beautiful projects and we finished them up in time. All of the hard work paid off because our projects look just beautiful! We loved taking a walk around and checking out all of the healthy kids at Jefferson School! Before the holiday break we enjoyed a sing-a-long and class parties. Thanks to our class parents and anyone who sent in something to help make our parties even more fun! There was so much excitement in getting ready for the holiday season.

In math we have continued to work on telling time and counting money. We will soon be working on figuring out quarter past and quarter to. The first graders are getting better at these skills every

day! We also had out our rulers and tape measures. There are so many ways to measure! We have used inches and feet to measure things around our



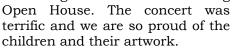
classroom, and we even measured each other!

We continue to read every day. Both long and short vowel sounds are familiar to all of us now. The "Our Nightly Reading Program" is a fun incentive for us to keep on reading even at home. The stories in our books are getting longer, and more exciting! We write a little every day and have so many great ideas! Don't forget to work on the Accelerated Reader quizzes when you read a book. If you need help, please ask your teacher.

Mrs. Giordano and Mrs. Valente's classes can hardly wait for a new year of fun and learning together. We wish you all a Happy New Year!

SECOND GRADE IS WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND......

December absolutely made us feel like that, with all the seasonal holiday projects, shows, and artwork displayed throughout the school during



In Reading, we've finished another unit of short stories. This time we enjoyed stories with the theme of work and play. The

classes read stories about working together to get

things accomplished. We found time to read several books too (A Hundred Dresses, The Polar Express, Imogene's Antlers, and The Snowy Day) and then created class writings having to do with each story. We plan on presenting them the week we get back from break. The children are beginning to understand key writing elements, indent paragraphs, and using adjectives to describe nouns. Great job 2nd graders©

To celebrate this holiday season, we listened to stories, ate potato pancakes with applesauce, and played holiday traditional games like dreidel. We wrote a list to Santa telling him what we want for Christmas, and even wrote about a ride on The Polar Express.

Our holiday craft and parties went well. Our class parents worked hard along with us to coordinate and we value their help. We'd also like to thank Mrs. Bullen for another fun sing-a-long. Her efforts are always appreciated.

Looking forward to 2010!

A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER IN THIRD GRADE

Third Graders have fond memories for the month of December. It was filled with fun and exciting learning opportunities especially in math, language arts and social studies.

The British are coming! The British are coming! No, that's not the Minutemen warning the colonists. It's the Minuteman Drills in math class heard between 3K and 3V. The children have been studying their Multiplication Facts in preparation for the dreaded Minuteman Drills. Memorizing the



facts is so important to continued success in multiplication and division. By the end of Third Grade the students should know their facts from 0 to 9. Let's give a cheer for them! 2, 4, 6, 8... What do we appreciate? The

Times Tables!!!! Yeah!!!!!!!

Drop Everything and Read has been increasingly popular since the boys and girls started working on the Star Reading Program. They're busily reading and then taking a computerized test on each completed book. Our goal for the month of January is for each child to read 5 books and pass their test on each book with a score of at least 85%. We're on the road to becoming Star Readers with this exciting program!

Writing continues to be an important component of our language arts curriculum. With the help of Mrs. Blasius we are learning new techniques every week. This past month writing paragraphs with a main idea sentence and at least two detail sentences with two supporting sentences was the focus of our attention. Mrs. Blasius used a health unit in science as springboard for this activity. From this practice the children will go on to develop paragraphs on their chosen subjects. To become a good writer takes practice and we're certainly practicing a lot with the help of Mrs. Blasius.

Does anyone like to pay taxes? Probably not, but the children learned all about the organization of government and the use of taxes in maintaining important services for the community in their Social Studies unit this month. In one of their essays they were to think about how they feel about the concept of taxes and should everyone have to pay taxes. The essays were very insightful. Take a minute to ask your child his or her viewpoints on this controversial subject.

Finally we'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Hildebrandt for the beautiful Winter Open House project. You bring out the best in us! We'd also like to thank Mrs. Bullen for the fantastic sing-a-long. It ushered in a festive mood for our Holiday Parties, which by the way, were a huge success thanks largely to our wonderful class parents.

3K and 3V wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year 2010!!!!!!!!

A DELIGHTFUL DECEMBER IN FOURTH GRADE

December was a month to remember in fourth grade. The weeks were filled with learning, laughter, and holiday cheer. We had a busy end to 2009 and are geared up for 2010!

Fourth graders have been taking advantage of all the new technology available! We took several trips to the Cybrary and used the Smartboard to enrich lessons. "Brainpop", an academic website now available to us, offers students the opportunity to watch interesting, fun videos on



countless topics being studied in class. The stars, Tim and Moby, informed our students about Native Americans, the Constitution, branches of government, and winter holidays. Students were even

eager to take the quizzes after the videos! Study Island and Accelerated Reader are still being used in class and we encourage the students with internet access at home to use these programs regularly.

In Language Arts, we've finished another unit of short stories with the theme of work and play. A "How-to Report" ended the unit on a really sweet note. Students made sugar cookies from scratch, while carefully recording the steps in sequential order. The delicious cookies were enjoyed by the bakers and the finished reports could be included in a cookbook! We have also found the time to read novels in addition to our short stories. The students' love for reading continues to grow and their interest is raised by the gripping novels read aloud in class. The "Magic Three," being taught by Mrs. Blasius, is a new writing skill that combines three sentences into one detailed sentence containing three verbs. By using the "Magic Three," students make their sentences flow smoothly, add detail to their writing, and create a poetic rhythm.

Students learned about New Jersey's first inhabitants, the Lenni Lenape. The Lenape's arrival to present day New Jersey and their rich culture were studied. Students even got to create their own Native American artifact by making dream



catchers. Hopefully, they bring our sleeping students only pleasant dreams and catch the nightmares in their webs!

In Math, students continue to gain "fact power" by practicing multiplication facts. Students have learned different strategies to multiply large numbers, including traditional, lattice, and partial-products methods. Ask your child to show you his or her favorite. Computing, estimating, and rounding BIG numbers have been the BIG ideas this month.

The Open House and Holiday Concert were a huge success thanks to all the hard work put forth by the students, Mrs. Hildebrandt, Mrs. Bullen, and Mrs. Quirk. The hallways were decorated with beautiful works of art, and the chorus and orchestra filled the auditorium with superb sounds.

We would like to thank all of the parents for your continued support this year and the class parents for organizing wonderful holiday parties. From our Jefferson School family to yours, we would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy 2010!

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

During the month of December, the fifth grade Language Arts students were very busy completing writing pieces to add to their growing portfolio of work. After reading and discussing a book about Mount Rushmore, the students got the opportunity to create their own Mount Rushmore. Each student was required to write a descriptive essay explaining who they feel deserves the special honor

of being a part of their own Mount Rushmore. They also included supporting details to describe why those individuals were worthy of this honor. In the



end, each student created a very unique Mount Rushmore that included many familiar faces including moms, dads, grandparents, and siblings.

In Science, the students completed writing and illustrating their own research book that included 10 interesting facts about an animal. This was a culminating project to end our study of Environments. Last month we also began working on a new science kit – Levers and Pulleys. During the first investigation, students worked in teams to set up a lever system to study the relationship between the effort, fulcrum, and load. Several experiments were completed to record data on how much effort was needed to lift certain loads. As the unit continues, we will investigate the differences between class-1, class-2, and class-3 levers before moving on to pulley systems.

In Math, the students reviewed fraction Thev explored mixed numbers, concepts. compared and ordered fractions and found equivalent fractions. They also worked on turning fractions into decimals and percents. We used many fun tools in this unit to help us understand fraction concepts such as the Probability Chart, the Fraction-Stick Chart and Decimal Number Line, and the Table of Decimal Equivalents for Fractions. We are currently analyzing the properties of bar and circle graphs and selecting topics so that we can construct graphs using data we collected. We are hoping to have our graphs on display outside our math classroom by the end of January.

In Social Studies, the students investigated North America in the 1700's. They learned it was very different from today's North America. Britain, France, Spain and the Native Americans were all in conflicts over this continent and in a race to take control. The students explored how the Spanish expeditions spread Spanish customs, religious beliefs, and artistic styles through the Southwest. The students were also able to identify why New Orleans was an ideal location for a port and how it became a busy trading center for the French. In our last lesson, the students investigated the French and Indian War and learned it was not the French and Indians at war, but the French and

British. The outcome of this war will eventually lead to tension between the colonists and the British government and result in the American Revolution, which is the next unit we will be studying.

LITERACY TIPS FROM YOUR READING SPECIALIST: 12 SIMPLE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Hello Parents or Guardians,

What better time is there than this decadestarting New Year to rededicate yourself to helping your children become better learners? With this in mind, I have gathered some New Year's Resolutions you might want to try.

- 1. I will praise my child for at least one success daily.
- 2. I will read to my child for fun each day.
- 3. I will listen to my child read for fun each day.
- 4. I will also help my child find another person to read to a grandparent, sibling or friend.
- 5. If I have a young child, I will write down stories and poems my child creates. If my child is older, I will set aside time for him or her to write for fun. I will write, too, and then we will read together what was written.
- 6. I will talk with my child daily about his or her school experiences.
- 7. I will arrange for my child to use the library regularly, choosing his or her own books.
- 8. I will help my child pursue a special interest and I will help him or her find books and internet sources on that topic.
- 9. I will allow my child to buy books and educational games and will encourage others to select such items as gifts.
- 10. I will set aside a special place for my child to keep his or her books.
- 11. I will help my child start a word collection of at least one new word a day, and I will start a similar collection.
- 12. I will be a model for reading and writing, showing my child that they are important parts of my life.

Just follow these 12 simple tips in the year ahead and you can be assured of improved learning.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

HONOR ROLLS

HIGH HONORS

5TH GRADE

Janelle, Juan, Ashley, Evelyn, Andre, Shannon, Angelo, Arianna, Meryl

4th GRADE

Katherine, Rachel, Sharon, Dennis, John, Joseph, Kevin, Simon, Branden, Juliana, Bernard

3rd GRADE

Alyson, Megan, Said, Joshua, Isabel, Ryan

HONOR ROLL

5TH GRADE

Ivanka, Sharina, Jonathan, Dayshona, Jason, Maria, Matteo, Kaylin, Yanni, Christina, Jennifer, Amanda, Parker, Jules, Jasmine, Evelyn

4TH GRADE

Caitlyn, Jered, Dennis, Antonio, Steven, Megan, Dylan, Alex, Jhunneth, Katarina, Daniel, Nikita, Andrew, Aakash, Diego, Marielle, Kyle, Danielle, Emely, Kelle, Jared, Katie, Renna, Linda, Anna, Justin, Noelle, Uriel

3RD GRADE

Ally, Mya, Jonathan, Carolina, Noah, Angela Rose, Andrew, Angelica, Krizelle, Shaniya, Joshua, Samantha, Martina, Andrew, Aila



JSPA NEWS...

We hope everyone had happy and healthy holidays and a restful winter break!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Helping Hand Ornaments.

The children had a great time shopping for their family and friends at the annual Holiday Fair.

Our next meeting is January 19, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the gym. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thea Kazarian, Gil Aviles, Rose Ravagnan, Marianne Kaszner, Julie Dorsett

