

# 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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March 2010

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Although being the shortest month of the year, February made a huge impact on us all. The snow fell like we haven't seen in years and left us all hoping that spring would make an early arrival. I would like to extend my thanks to our custodial staff of

Tom Beslanovitz and Kevin Leahy for the hours and hours of time they put into cleaning up after our recent snow storms. They did an outstanding job and we are all grateful to them for their efforts.

Despite the chilly weather, we had a very exciting month here at Jefferson School. Our students in grades 3-5 took the second installment of the NWEA. We had goals to achieve and data to study in order to provide the best possible instruction for our students. We will have one final testing date in late spring. There is a correlation chart between success on the NWEA and anticipated success on the NJASK. I am very excited about our recent results and feel confident that we are moving in the right direction in preparing our students for future success on the NJASK.

Prior to our mid-winter recess, Mrs. Karen Bullen led our students in a rousing Patriotic Assembly to help celebrate Presidents' Week. All in attendance couldn't help but be impressed at the performance and the enthusiasm which our students demonstrated. Mrs. Bullen, once again, prepared a wonderful assembly that sent us off on our week's vacation on a wonderful note.

Thanks to our Parents' Association for organizing our annual Valentine's Day Candy Gram event. We celebrated February's favorite holiday with class parties and some delicious sweets.

Our students, families, and friends raised over \$500.00 to support "Doctors Without Borders" in providing some relief to those affected by the tragic earthquake that devastated the island of Haiti. We

appreciate your kindness and are so proud of all your efforts.

February also brought some of our great young writers to the forefront as we selected class winners in the monthly essay contest. Student winners read their work at the monthly Parents' Association meeting and impressed everyone with the quality of their writing. Thanks to Mrs. Nancy Blasius, our Reading Specialist, for organizing the contest.

Unfortunately, Parent Conferences scheduled for the end of the month were canceled due to inclement weather conditions. No future dates for the conferences have been scheduled at this point, but parents interested in communicating with teachers can still do so through email or by calling to set up a meeting at a mutually convenient time. The end of the second trimester is rapidly approaching. Report Cards will be distributed on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

As March arrives, we look forward to emphasizing nutrition and healthy eating habits. On March 4<sup>th</sup> we will have our first assembly of the year entitled, "Nutrition - The Magic of 5-a-Day with Brian Richards". The assembly is sponsored by our Parents' Association and organized by two of our parents, Mrs. McDonnell and Mrs. Greenspan. We are looking forward to welcoming the opportunity to help our students better understand the importance of choosing healthy foods.

Our next generation of Jeffersonians will arrive at 200 Hickory Avenue with our Kindergarten Registration scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Nikola and I are looking forward to meeting and greeting our future students.

The Jefferson School Homework Club begins on Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup>. Students who need extra assistance completing their homework can sign up to attend the club after school hours from 3:10 until 4:10pm every Tuesday and Thursday in our school cybrary. The club will be supervised by members of our faculty.

The March Parents' Association meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Please make every effort to attend our monthly PA meeting.

On March 17<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate "Green Day" in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day. We invite all

students to wear their favorite shade of green on that special day.

Spring school photos are scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> for all those interested.

On Friday evening March 26<sup>th</sup>, the PA will sponsor Karaoke Night here at our school from 7:00 until 8:30pm. Please join us as we welcome our own Jefferson School versions of Hanna Montana, Selena Gomez, the Jonas Brothers and Justin Beiber to our school gym.

On a final note, I thank all our friends and families for cooperating with our wishes for exercising good judgment with regards to student drop off and pick up on Hickory Avenue. The traffic situation has improved somewhat and we are delighted that you are joining with us in keeping our students safe and sound when they arrive and when they exit Jefferson School.

Yours with Jefferson School Pride,

Hugh E. Beattie

**ARE YOU A REGISTERED VOTER?**

*To vote in the April School Board/Budget Elections you must be a registered voter. If you need to, please pick up a Voter Registration Form in the main office.*



**JEFFERSON SCHOOL PLEDGE**

*WE THE PROUD STUDENTS OF JEFFERSON SCHOOL PLEDGE TO TRY OUR BEST TO ACHIEVE OUR PERSONAL AND SCHOOL-WIDE*

*ACADEMIC GOALS. WE ARE DETERMINED TO SUCCEED IN OUR CLASSROOMS BY STUDYING, 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.*

**MARCH HEALTHY HAPPENINGS:**

Although it is hard to believe, spring really will be here soon. Children will finally be able to play outdoors after being indoors during this long winter. However it is also the time to begin planning for the spring allergy season. If early in the spring your child experiences a stuffy



or runny nose, congestion, itchy eyes and nose he/she may have an allergy to tree pollen.

### **How to keep your child more comfortable during the allergy season:**

- There are a number of medications that can relieve allergy symptoms. It is best to consult with your pediatrician which medication is best for your child.
- Keep windows closed in the car and at home to avoid exposure to pollen.
- Check forecast for pollen levels and limit outdoor activities when pollen counts are highest. (early morning for tree pollen in the spring)
- Have your child change clothes when coming in from prolonged outdoor play and rinse his/her eyes with cool water as pollen will adhere to surface of eyes.
- Have your child take his/her bath at bedtime, which may help wash off allergens prevent nighttime allergy problems.
- Vacuum and dust frequently.
- If your pet goes outdoors it will bring pollen into the house on its fur.

There is a free publication called **Allergy and Asthma Network** available online at [breatherville.org](http://breatherville.org) or call 800-878-4403 that is full of information about allergies and asthma.

### **Poison Prevention Week:**

The third week in March is designated Poison Prevention Week.

Some information about poisoning prevention:

- Antifreeze is a poisonous liquid used in cars. You may see it occasionally on the street where it has leaked from a car. It has a bright green color. Children and animals like its taste. Even if a little is swallowed it can be harmful causing kidney damage.
- Avoid using glass thermometers as they can break in a child's mouth. Mercury is a hazardous waste and spilled mercury should be cleaned up properly. Call Poison Help (1-800-222-1222) for advice.
- Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless, tasteless poisonous gas made by fuel burning devices that are not working properly or are in use in a poorly ventilated space.

Sources of Carbon Monoxide include:

- gas furnaces and gas water heaters
- gas ovens
- wood and gas fireplaces
- car engines

To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning in your home:

- have at least one Carbon Monoxide alarm near bedrooms and/or close to furnaces

- Never burn charcoal inside a house or garage.
- Never use a gas oven to heat your home.
- Never run a car in a closed garage.

**For any questions about poisons, call the Poison Control Hotline- 1-800-222-1222.**

### **Nutrition Tips:**

Childhood obesity is not only a self confidence issue, it increases short and long term risk factors for conditions like heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. To put your children on a healthy lifestyle path, increased physical activity and daily consumption of five or more servings of fruits and vegetables can make a difference. Fruits and vegetables help children control weight and feel energetic. They contain plenty of fiber and water and are good substitutes for empty calorie foods full of fats and sugars that cause quick blood sugar rises and falls.

Ways to get your children to eat veggies:

- Set a good example by letting your children see you eating and enjoying a variety of vegetables. Always serve vegetables at every meal.
- Make veggies fun by serving raw vegetables with a variety of low fat dips such as hummus, salsa or guacamole.
- Ask your children to try just one bite of a new veggie, but don't nag and don't offer rewards for doing so.

Also very important – Get out in the nice weather and exercise!!

Happy Spring !

Carolyn Niederman RN

### **FANTASTIC FEBRUARY IN KINDERGARTEN**



The children worked “extra” hard in reading, writing, and math this month!! The students engaged in a variety of fun and exciting activities that truly showed their academic growth. I am so proud of them!!

February was also a time for love and friendship. All the students showed what special friends they are to each other by bringing in Valentine's cards and candy for everyone. The students made their own Valentine's in class, and shared a special snack compliments of our wonderful class parents. The students also wrote stories about how they could show that they care about someone. Some of their ideas were to invite someone to play a game, to help their parents around the house, or to simply tell somebody, "I love you". Their stories were extremely touching and the students enjoyed reading them aloud to their classmates.

The Kindergarten students have been practicing their addition and subtraction facts in a variety of different ways. The goal for our class is that the students will be able to answer ten problems in two minutes. Whether they use a number line, hundreds chart, memorization, or their fingers, students need to be able to figure out the problems with fluency and accuracy. Please help by practicing addition and subtraction facts at home.

I am so happy that so many of you are remembering to read with your child every night. Please remember to initial each time you read, which should be every night for 15-20 minutes. Students will not receive their stickers if the Reading Log is not signed.

I would like to congratulate the students again for doing such an excellent job over all this month and I am looking forward to seeing what wonderful work March will bring.

### **FABULOUS FEBRUARY IN FIRST GRADE**



The Jefferson School first graders have been working hard this month and having a fantastic time. With all of this snow, there has been plenty of time for us to curl up inside with a good book! We have been working on our reading skills and have come so far since September. With Read Across America Day, and Dr. Seuss's birthday coming up right around the corner, we are even more excited to read each and every day! We are really moving along as readers, and are working also on becoming better writers. Parts of speech, contractions, long and short vowel sounds are all familiar to us now! Keep up the reading at home!

We have learned about using tens and ones cubes for place value this month, and also know how to tell which number is greater and which is

less in a set of two numbers. We have continued counting coins and adding up different amounts of money.

In February we celebrate Black History Month. In our classes we have been learning about some very well known African Americans. Ask your children to tell you something that they have learned about Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, or even Harriet Tubman. Also this month we talked about the presidents in observance of Presidents' Day. We have been talking about the importance of taking good care of our teeth, for dental health month. Just before our February break, we celebrated the one hundredth day of school. It is hard to believe we have been together for 100 days already! We have learned so much had had so much fun. We are all one hundred days smarter! We have enjoyed talking about the Olympics in our classes, and are sad to see them come to an end. Everyone in 1-G and 1-V is looking forward to a marvelous March, and some spring days around the corner. Keep up all of the hard work!

### **A BUSY MONTH IN SECOND GRADE**



For a short month, February certainly was jammed pack for 2nd grade. We worked hard, ate well, and learned a lot. We celebrated Chinese New Year with a traditional story that shared Chinese culture and taught a valuable lesson to honor people with respect. We also made lucky red lanterns with symbols of luck, health and happiness for the new "year of the Tiger". Gung Hey Fat Choi!

For the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school we did some "100derful things". We wrote 100 word stories, completed 100 math addition problems, played a tally mark math game "Get to 100" and completed 100 piece puzzles. We can't believe we've been in school this long! Can you? In Math, we have been also learning about three dimensional shapes. Come by to see our "Shape Museum"!

Valentine's Day was a great event for us as well. We worked on heart filled Valentine's cards for special people in our lives. We also used hearts in math to graph and record data.

February, being African-American history month, had our students researching famous people for whose contributions we are forever grateful. The 2nd graders did a phenomenal job on

these projects! Presentations in the classroom will show us all the work put into these projects and we plan to present them to other grade levels also. Good Job 2nd graders!☺

Thanks to Karen Bullen for our “Presidential Assembly”. The students sang their hearts out and we enjoyed every minute of it.

As we end February, we continue to prepare our students for the future. We are proud of all their hard work and the love for learning that they exhibit each day.

Let’s hope the luck of the Irish shines on us in March!

### **ANOTHER FABULOUS FEBRUARY**

Third Graders celebrated another fabulous February by completing a variety of educational and fun-filled activities. Even though this was a short month a great deal was accomplished. There were projects, prep for NJASK, presidents, and parties of course!

Both classes celebrated Black History month by creating creative and fact-filled banners depicting important accomplishments of famous African-Americans. The children researched their famous people, then selected important information to write on a banner.



Finally, they decorated their banners with pictures and drawings representative of their famous person’s life and achievements. You will be able to view their fabulous creations in the third grade hallway.

Since we enjoyed our field trip to the Hackensack Environment Center so much last month, we decided to continue our study of habitats and adaptations in science class. The children learned about camouflage and behaviors that help animals adapt to their environment. Did you know that there are habitats in ponds, streams and oceans? We learned that communities and populations aren’t only studied in social studies! The children enjoyed this unit so much that Miss Vogel’s class even decided to make diorama’s of different habitats. Look for these outside Miss Vogel’s classroom! While their class was busy completing projects, Mrs. Kruimer’s class was readying the classroom for the arrival of the “beloved” crayfish. During the last week of February, the little “critters” emerged from the depths of a UPS truck and settled peacefully into their new habitat- a huge basin filled with fresh

water, parrot grass and little plastic houses. In March, both classes will begin an extensive study of crayfish using the materials from our Foss Science Kits.

Preparation for the NJASK has begun!!!! The children are attending after school classes and receiving additional instruction in the mainstream classes also. During the week the children use the laptops to practice test-taking using Study Island. We encourage all students to continue to practice using Study Island at home also. The more Blue Ribbons awarded, the better prepared we’ll be for NJASK!!!!

Do you know all the names of the presidents? Most of Jefferson School does thanks to Mrs. Bullen and her Presidential Rap! Since February is Presidents Month, the children have been working extra hard on this project. Also, Miss Vogel’s class wrote essays of our two most famous presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Mrs. Kruimer’s class practiced learning about the presidents with a friendly game of bingo. (Thanks to Ms. Picca) “Happy Birthday”, to George and Abe!

What February would be complete without an old-fashioned Valentine’s Day party? Thanks to all the parents who volunteered to send in goodies for this festive day. Our **HEART**-felt thanks go out to you!



Well, that’s about it for February. Thank you to Punxsutawney Phil, or was it Staten Island Chuck that predicted an early spring. In either case, you’re not very good prognosticators! We’ve had enough snow! It’s time for March, St. Patrick’s Day, Women in History Month, and SPRING!!!!!!!!!!

### **FABULOUS FEBRUARY**

For a short month, February certainly has been jam packed in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We began the month with our NJASK extended day preparation class after school. Students are practicing and sharpening their skills by answering multiple-choice and open ended questions in Reading and Math. The overall purpose is to review test taking strategies for the upcoming test in May. Our seat belts are buckled, and it’s full speed ahead to the finish line!



We celebrated Valentine’s Day with parties galore and by wearing red to demonstrate our “love” for Jefferson School. The children enjoyed

exchanging cards and feasting on a wide variety of treats, which our class parents so graciously provided. The Valentine's Day theme was the perfect opportunity for us to practice our Math skills in an innovative way. We used candy hearts to create bar graphs, multiplication/division facts and word problems. The data we collected from each color heart was used to find the mean, median, mode, and range. Gluing the candy hearts in the form of an angle was certainly a challenge, but, nonetheless, was an entertaining way to measure our angles with a protractor. Who knew candy hearts could be so mathematical!

February, being African-American History Month, inspired our students to research famous people for whose contributions we are forever grateful. Our fourth graders presented the accomplishments of many African American inventors, scientists, athletes, and entertainers. Students obtained their research by reading several biographies and then created a Tri-Fold Project to display a time line of events, a biographical essay, a letter to their chosen person, and a portrait of the person. Presentations in the classroom showcased all the hard work that was put into their projects. We even created a living museum so all of Jefferson School could appreciate the important accomplishments of these great Americans. Excellent Job 4<sup>th</sup> Graders!!!

What February would be complete without a tribute to our presidents? Of course there are countless significant facts that we could have researched, but we decided to have a little fun with this project instead. All three classes chose a president to research, only this time we were looking for some "Wacky Facts". For example, which president was nicknamed, "Last of the Wigs?" You'll have to come see our hallway display to find out. We concluded our salute to the presidents under the direction of Mrs. Bullen in singing the "Presidential Rap". Kudos to all the classes and to Mrs. Bullen for a job well done!

Bring on MARCH MADNESS!

### **5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, LOVE OF LEARNING IN FEBRUARY**

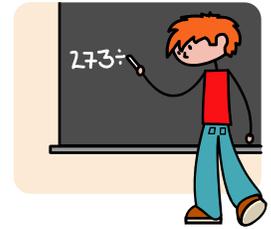


February was filled with many fun and educational activities and although we had several snow days, we continued to focus on our academics and our love of learning.

In Language Arts, we concluded the third unit of study in our reading series, which focused upon the author's purpose, generalizations, main ideas, and supporting details. In writing, we focused our efforts on using transition words when writing an informative "How-To" essay. We also began to explore the creative use of dialogue in narrative stories. As we progress to our next unit of study, we will incorporate weekly review lessons in preparation for the NJASK test, which will be administered in May.

The fifth grade students are thoroughly enjoying the hands-on FOSS Science unit on Mixtures and Solutions. Investigation 1 involved making and separating various mixtures and solutions. Students made solutions of salt and water and then discovered that through the process of evaporation, the previously dissolved salt will reappear as crystals. As a final assessment all groups were given a dry mixture containing salt, gravel, and powder and were required to create a plan for separating the mixture. In Investigation 2, we will explore the concept of saturated solutions.

In Math, the students investigated pre-algebra concepts and skills, which included exponents, scientific notation, number and word notation, parentheses, and order of operations. They also investigated the rules for addition and subtraction of positive and negative numbers. The students practiced their new skills through game activities. They played "Exponent Ball", "Scientific-Notation Toss", and "Name That Number", which promoted strategic thinking.



In Social Studies, we completed our chapter on "Winning the Revolution". The students analyzed and discussed the main arguments in the Declaration of Independence, as well as investigated why signing the document was a very dangerous act. We also identified significant contributions made by African Americans and women during the revolutionary times and how their contributions helped the patriots win the war. Finally, we examined the victory at Yorktown and how the Americans defeated the mighty power of Great Britain.



### Literacy Tips: Family Activities to Promote Vocabulary Development

<b>CLEVER</b>	<b>DAINTY</b>	<b>POUNCE</b>
<b>ABDOMEN</b>	<b>GENEROUS</b>	<b>CLENCH</b>
<b>INQUIRE</b>	<b>RAMBUNCTIOUS</b>	
<b>ATTIRE</b>	<b>NIBBLE</b>	<b>BRIM</b>
<b>TOPPLE</b>	<b>MONOTONE</b>	<b>INFANT</b>
<b>ECHO</b>	<b>TRIVIAL</b>	

Have you heard your child using one of these words? Jefferson School has started a “Word of the Day” program, with Mr. Beattie defining and modeling the use of a new word each morning. The children and teachers are challenged to use the new word as often as they can that day. The above list includes our words to date. Help us out by posting them at home, too. Then each day you can *inquire* about the new word and add it to your chart. A *clever* parent will find ways to use the words as you go about your daily activities.

Research shows that vocabulary is an important part of both the decoding and the comprehension that is necessary for reading. Children read words they have heard and spoken, that are part of their oral vocabulary, more easily than words they are not familiar with. Families can contribute a great deal to the vocabulary development of their children. Try some of these additional activities:

- Provide opportunities for children to listen to how adults use language. Table conversations about daily events or news are a good place to start. Use specific words instead of general words.
- Purchase children’s dictionaries for various age groups.
- Investigate the puzzle page in the newspaper. (I just watched my grandsons and their dad have fun seeing how many words they could write in 15 minutes from the given word of the day.)
- Play board games like Scrabble, Boggle, Upwords, Perquackey, and Hangman
- Go on an Alphabet Hunt. The variations on this are endless. Find and list a word for each letter of the alphabet in various places. It could be your kitchen, car, museum, store, or even while taking a walk. You can also take one letter and see how many words in your selected place you can find that begin with it. Use a point system to keep the interest high. Write the words down.
- I Spy Vocabulary game- First person says, “I’m thinking of a word that starts with “O” and is found in the desert.” Keep giving

clues (letter length, definitions, rhymes with, opposites, etc) until the word is guessed. Winner is the one who guesses with the fewest clues.

So, let’s *pounce* on this opportunity to have some *rambunctious* fun and teach our children to love words!

Mrs. Blasius

### NEWS FROM GUIDANCE

The Guidance Department will be holding the third of five Parent Outreach Workshops on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7:00 at the Bergenfield Public Library. The program’s topic will be “Anger & Stress Management” and will be presented in English by elementary guidance counselors Jen Claydon of Lincoln School and John Mahoney of Jefferson and Washington Schools. New to the program this year will be JoAnn Vazquez presenting the same program in a separate room in Spanish. If you want to attend, but have no one to watch your children, bring them with you—we will have someone there to spend time with them and keep an eye on your children. To R.S.V.P contact 201-385-8700 Ext. 1360 or 201-385-8581 Ext. 4351 to reply in Spanish. We hope to see you there and keep an eye out for the program’s flyer coming home with your children! Look for more programs over the rest of the year!



### **JSPA NEWS...**

We hope that everyone had a happy and restful Winter Break!

Congratulations to all the students who won January’s essay contest. It was great to hear all of your essays at our

last meeting!

Valentine’s Day Candy-Grams were a great success! The students, friends, family members, and staff all enjoyed their sweet treats for Valentine’s Day!

Congratulations to Despina Khouri, the winner of the PA meeting raffle!

We have many events planned for this month. Board elections are coming up. Look for the

nominations memo that has been sent out. Please make sure to nominate yourself or someone else for the Parents' Association Board! An assembly has been scheduled for March 4, 2010, with the "Nutrition Magician." Also, we will be having a Karaoke Night on March 26, 2010. Keep the date open for a night of fun!!!

Our next meeting is **Tuesday**, March 16, 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

