

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



As we bid a chilly farewell to the first month of the year, we welcome the shortest month of the year with the Groundhog's promise of six more weeks of winter with trepidation and hopes that the spring thaw will arrive quickly. January is always a month full of expectation as we welcome

in the New Year and recover from a very busy holiday season. Time has truly flown since the beginning of this school year. As we enter the second half of the 2009-10 school year we have set our goals high and we know that our students are up for the challenge.

I am happy to report that the "Homework Survey" we asked our families and friends to complete provided us with the necessary data we needed to report to the Bergenfield Board of education that we are in need of an after school homework program to assist our students. The Board of Education granted us permission to schedule a homework club and we will begin the program on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school starting in March. The program will run for one hour per day (3:10 - 4:10pm) after school in our school cybrary and be supervised by one of our faculty members. We will be sending invitations home to students, who may benefit from the program, during the last week in February. I would personally like to thank the 69% of our families and friends who returned the "Homework Survey" so that I could collect the data over the holiday break.

NWEA Testing has returned for a second round of assessing our students in reading and math. Our Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders will be tested between February 1st and the 10th to chart their progress. Data will be available to families and friends at the Parent Conferences on February 25th and 26th. Our students are familiar with the NWEA testing format and will take the tests on our student laptop computers in our new school cybrary. The data that results from the tests help

us adjust our classroom instruction to meet the needs of our students and helps us to set academic goals for each individual student.

Our students have actively been involved in the Accelerated Reader program on all grade levels. Students read a book judged to be in their reading level, and then take a short online comprehension quiz to collect points towards their individual and classroom goals. The more students are successful on quizzes (85% or higher) the more they advance their reading level. There has been a noticeable excitement around the school as our students are actively engaged in independent reading. We encourage you to support the program and bring students to the local library to take out books that they can read at home then take quizzes on the books here at school. I have seen this program be very successful in my own home where my second grade daughter has really caught the "reading bug".

Another new program will begin at the end of February as our students help bolster their math skills by taking quick "Math Facts" quizzes in their classrooms. Students will be required to answer fifty, or so math facts within a two minute period twice per week. The program is customized per grade level and will help our students build necessary math skills to assist them as they move from one grade level to the next. The Math Facts online program will support our current Everyday Math program in our classrooms.

Our February Writing Contest is underway and the winners will be announced prior to the Parents' Association meeting on February 23. That evening, students will be given the opportunity to read their essays to those attending the meeting. All grade level winners will be awarded certificates and be invited to attend a pizza luncheon with me to celebrate their achievements.

On Friday, February 12th we will be celebrating Valentine's Day in our classes and President's week by holding a Patriotic Assembly at the end of the day. Students will be led in a patriotic sing-along orchestrated by our music teacher, Mrs. Bullen. Please keep in mind that school will be closed from February 15 thru 19th and reopen at regular hours on February 22nd.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The time is always right to do what is right." That being said, it

is with great pride that I announce that our four day fund raiser to aid the victims of the terrible earthquake in Haiti raised an amazing \$540.00. Thanks to the efforts of our students, faculty, families, and friends we, in our own way, have helped to bring comfort to those devastated by the tragedy that befell Haiti. I am so proud of our learning community for enabling us to make this donation to the "Doctors without Borders" organization, which sends necessary medical help to those in need. Thank you all!!!

On a local note, please remember that safety first should be the motto we all live by when dropping off and picking up our students before and after school. Remember to cross Hickory Avenue at the crossing guard post only and to abide by all traffic laws and rules of good common sense.

As the Groundhog said, get the snow shovels ready and prepare for a long winter. Thank you for all your support in partnering with us to make Jefferson School a viable center for learning.

Yours with Jefferson School Pride,

article of clothing please check with the office lost and found.

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.

JEFFERSON SCHOOL PLEDGE

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.



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

COLD WEATHER WEAR

Remember to bundle up in layers for the winter's cold weather. Your children should be prepared to be out in the cold while waiting on line and at lunch time. Hats and gloves should be worn outdoors. We will be outside as long as the weather permits. To help us avoid collecting too much in the lost and found, you may wish to label your child's clothing. This is particularly important for accessories which are often discarded in haste. If your child does lose an



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.

FEBRUARY HEALTHY HAPPENINGS:

Dental Health:

February is National Dental Health Month.

Tips for protecting your child's teeth:

- Your child should visit the dentist every six months for a cleaning and fluoride treatment or more if a dental problem exist.
- Your child should brush her/his teeth twice daily after breakfast and before bed. Flossing the teeth before bedtime prevents decay between teeth.
- Limit the amount of soda, sports drinks and sugary drinks your child can have. Make these drinks an occasional treat, not part of an every day diet.
- When your child does have a soft drink, give her/him a straw to reduce the amount of sugar and acid that comes in direct contact with the teeth.

If any family does not have a dentist, I have a directory of public dental clinic services. This directory can also be accessed online at:

www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/newborn.documents/dental_directory.pdf.

Attention 5th Grade Parents:

Students in 5th grade will require vaccinations prior to entering 6th grade in September.

These include:

- 1) **Tdap Booster** – This vaccine is to be given no earlier than the 10th birthday and no earlier than 5 years from the last tetanus booster.
- 2) **Meningococcal vaccine** – This vaccine is to be given no earlier than the 11th birthday.

If your child is scheduled for her/his annual physical exam within the coming months, please ask your pediatrician to administer these vaccines.

They will be required before your child enter middle school if your child is eleven before school starts in September.

Haitian Relief Fundraiser:

We are so proud to announce that the Jefferson students and their families raised \$550 for aid to the Haitian people who experienced the major earthquake last month. Our Fifth graders did a wonderful job in promoting this project. We will be donating this money to Doctors Without Borders, a humanitarian organization that provides medical services to people affected by major disasters. Doctors Without Borders were working in Haiti even prior to the earthquake.

Nutrition Tip:

Breakfast really is one of the most important meals of the day and cereal is a healthy breakfast food choice if chosen wisely. According to studies, children who eat cereal every day are least likely to be overweight, more likely to have better nutritional intake and more likely to perform better in school throughout the day. However cereals marketed for children are often less nutritious than cereals for adults.

Tips for choosing healthy cereals for children by reading the ingredient label:

Avoid cereals that :

- 1) contain more than 4-5 grams of sugar per serving
- 2) have the following ingredients high on the list – sugar, brown sugar, corn syrup or cane syrup
- 3) contain more than 3 grams of fat per serving
- 4) contains hydrogenated oils, dyes, artificial colors

Have a relaxing and enjoyable February break!

Carolyn Niederman RN

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

As we come to the half way mark of the school year, the kindergartners are still making tremendous writing progress. Our writing journals have been keeping our little authors so motivated to do their best work. I am so impressed with the quality and detail of the children's writing, and they are truly trying so hard to use their best spelling and handwriting each and every time.



Students have been extending their writing skills into math as well. This month they were introduced to "change to more" number stories, where students made up little scenarios about having a certain quantity, getting more of it, and then calculating how much they have all together. Students used drawings followed by a number sentence to depict their story in various ways. The students enjoyed exchanging and solving their problems with their classmates, while they had fun talking about how they came about their ideas for the stories.

Happy birthday Martin Luther King Jr.!!!! Our class learned about peace and equal rights while reading about Dr. King. The students discussed how the world would be different today if he had not made such a huge difference in the lives of Americans. In remembrance of Dr. King's dream, the students learned many new songs and stories to deepen their understanding of his desire for peace. As the children sang the songs and reread the stories, they tried hard to remember that we should live out his dream in our classroom every single day.

NEWS FROM FIRST GRADE

We sure have kicked off 2010 with a bang here in first grade. We have been learning and trying lots of new things. There have been many exciting things to do in starting off this New Year.

In January we learned about a very important man in history. Martin Luther King Jr. made such a difference for all people. We learned how, without him things would be very different in our world today. We are so thankful for all that he did, and the lessons that he helped people to learn. Everyone should work to get along peacefully, and accept others for who they are. We had the chance to read so much about him in stories and in our Weekly Readers. We even wrote about Dr. King this month. Every day we try to remember the important things that he taught us.



We have enjoyed the time we spent with our 5th grade reading buddies this month. We love reading and writing with one another. Both 1G and 1V have worked with their partner fifth grade classes to become better readers.

First grade is just full of great readers. We are reading so much these days! Our classes have been learning about parts of speech, like nouns and action verbs. Just ask us to tell you some, we have made lists! We are working on our reading comprehension and fluency, and are reading each and every day. Please keep reading at home. It is a fun thing for families to do together! Don't forget that your child can take Accelerated Reader quizzes online after they have finished reading a story. Be sure to get in touch with your teacher if you are having trouble accessing this program from home.

In math, we have been practicing addition and subtraction facts, as well as, learning new concepts. We have done turn around facts, and used an addition table. We learned about a function box and now we know how to find the math rule for the box. Did you know that there are more than one way to get to a number? We have practiced telling time to the hour, half hour and quarter hour now. Please keep practicing!

Please keep up all of the great work you are doing with your children at home. We are looking forward to a fantastic February here in grade one!

SECOND GRADE IS VERY BUSY

Welcome 2010! We've all been extremely busy ringing in the New Year with unbelievable activities. To start the year off right, we made resolutions for our families, school and community. Second graders wrote their resolutions on their own hands and we displayed them for everyone to see how serious we were.



We've been enjoying stories in Reading that reflect creative ideas. Who wouldn't love reading about "entering a robot into a science fair", "sisters that care about each other, and letters written for a grandmother" without using words? We wrote our own stories about being outside on a snowy day, letters to people we love using pictures to express ourselves, and created adjective ABC books.

We celebrated Martin Luther King's birthday in a variety of ways. We read "The Picture Book of Martin Luther King" and "March On" Then we made mobiles with our own hopes and dreams for the community of Bergenfield, the United States, and Earth. We also completed mini booklets that spoke about his life and times.

Dinosaurs have come to 2nd grade. We've begun looking at all types of dinosaurs and reading about their history. Ask your child what a fossil is and you won't be disappointed. Students chose a type of dinosaur to research and wrote reports about them. They then created their own dinosaur to write and draw about. Check out their creatures outside our walls in the next few weeks. We culminated our chapter on Dinosaurs with a field trip to the Museum of Natural History. What a great trip. The kids learned a lot and had a fantastic time. Special thanks to our class parents and TAP students who came along.

Hoping for a heart-filled February!

EXCITING EXPERIENCES IN THIRD GRADE

Third graders are off to a great start again, in 2010! The start of the New Year brought many exciting learning experiences and activities that students will remember in months and years to come.

One such experience was our third grade class field trip to the Meadowlands. The frigid weather couldn't keep us away from a day of fun and hands on learning. Students completed a workshop called "Paws to Claws" where they explored

different animals and their adaptations. Students gained a better understanding of how different animals survive in their environment. "Eyes in the front, an animal hunts. Eyes on the side an animal hides" is only one of the many interesting facts that we learned on our trip. Students also had the opportunity to take a "short but sweet" walking tour of the salt marsh at the Meadowlands. We would like to thank the class parents who joined us and helped to make our trip an enjoyable one. A fun time was had by all!



As you know, January is a time to honor a very special African American who fought for equal rights and freedom, Martin Luther King. Students read different books about Martin Luther King and then created bookmarks describing the different events in his life. Come by and take a look at these bookmarks hanging in the third grade hallway. When you stop by you will also see the butterfly life cycle wheels that students made in science illustrating the different stages in a butterfly's life. You will be very impressed with these wonderful works of art!

The crayfish are coming, the crayfish are coming!!! Our field trip was the perfect segue into our next science unit on animal habitats and adaptations. In fact, both third grade classes will soon be welcoming new additions to the class to help us observe different habitats.....you guessed it, crayfish! Crayfish will be arriving this month and will soon be swimming about in their special habitat that will be created by the students. Everyone is very excited about this arrival. When we are finished with the crayfish we will be truly sad to see them go....crayfish etoufe anyone?

JANUARY NEWS FROM FOURTH GRADE

2010 is off to a great start! The fourth graders returned from their holiday break refreshed and eager to learn! January has proven to be a busy month in fourth grade. Now that the end of January has arrived, the fourth grade teachers will begin to incorporate NJASK preparation into weekly lessons. This preparation will include test taking strategies, as well as, sample questions that will help the fourth graders to become familiar with the format of the Math, Language Arts, and Science portions of the NJASK test!

In Math, the students started off the New Year by exploring the concepts of Partial-Product and Lattice Multiplication. Although, at first, this

proved to be a challenge to the fourth graders, with a positive attitude and determination they were able to conquer these concepts. After becoming confident in multiplication, the students tackled the topics of long division and angles.



In Language Arts, the students continued to explore various genres, as part of their weekly reading stories, while focusing upon skills such as fact/opinion, generalizations, cause/effect, and graphic sources. In addition, the students learned how to compose a friendly letter using the proper format. “Magic Three” and “Hyphenated Adjectives” are among some common phrases being used in the fourth grade. Mrs. Blasius has provided the fourth graders with some “Smiley-face- writing tips.” The students have been focusing upon incorporating these strategies into their writing responses. By doing so, the fourth graders have been able to impress their teachers with their improved writing skills!

After finishing up our Social Studies unit focusing upon European exploration and the interaction between the Europeans and Native Americans, the fourth graders welcomed a break from the text book to complete several lessons based upon African American history. The students were able to explore the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Melba Pattillo, and Ruby Bridges. Aside from learning a great deal about what each person did to fight for Civil Rights, the students were also given the opportunity to reflect upon how the actions of these heroes has impacted their lives today. The students all agreed that they can help to live out Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream by judging people by their character rather than their appearance.

Our fourth grade scientists are so excited to be returning to the FOSS kits. Ms. Altamura’s class will be focusing upon Earth Materials, Ms. Capabianco’s class will focus upon Measurement, and Mrs. Wurst’s class will be focusing upon Magnetism and Electricity. Although we are only a few days into each kit, the students can’t wait to explore the investigations that lie ahead!

OFF TO A GREAT START

The fifth grade students experienced a fantastic beginning to 2010 and are excited as they head into their final months as Jefferson School students. We are so proud of the work our fifth graders are doing with the Community Service

program. Many students have taken the opportunity to help out at school and at home. The students took an active role in helping the Jefferson School community with the recent efforts to raise money for the Haitian earthquake.

We are also proud of the work our students are doing with the Accelerated Reader program. The students are busy reading a variety of chapter books and earning points as they complete each novel. We are also using the program in conjunction with our reading series. As we move into February, we will begin preparing for the NJASK in Language Arts focusing on reading comprehension and writing.

In Science, we completed a unit on Levers and Pulleys using the FOSS program. Students worked in groups to set up and explore various types of lever and pulley systems and the work advantages they provide. The students are looking forward to beginning our next science kit – Mixtures and Solutions. With this kit, the students will explore some basic concepts of chemistry.

In Math, the students investigated data display and sample size. We used skittles candies as our population and took different sample sizes. During this activity, we converted fractions to percents; we constructed circle graphs, and made predictions based on our sampling. The students also examine line plots, stem and leaf plots, and reviewed addition and subtraction of fractions in this unit.



In Social Studies, we analyzed the causes and effects of events prior to the American Revolution. Some events the students examined were the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party and the Intolerable Acts. The students discussed how these events lead to the tensions between the British and the colonists; and how eventually, the first battle of the American Revolution began and the colonists started to unite and fight for their independences.

JSPA NEWS...

Valentine’s Day Candy-Gram memos have been sent out. Children may send a Candy Gram to their friends, family, teachers, or anyone else they consider special!

Congratulations to Mrs. Greenspan, the winner of our January PA meeting raffle!

Our next meeting is February 23, 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

