

# 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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[www.bergenfield.org](http://www.bergenfield.org)

[hbeattie@bergenfield.org](mailto:hbeattie@bergenfield.org)

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



The exciting month of October lived up to all expectations here at Jefferson School. As the leaves turned into brilliant autumn colors and the weather remained as fickle as it could possibly be, we settled in comfortably to all the changes and expectations

of a new school year.

Our students were involved in STAR and NWEA diagnostic testing in Reading and Math. The scores of these computerized tests helped our teachers better prescribe the direction of instruction for our classes. The district decided that all students would benefit from these diagnostic assessments to help us shape our curriculum to meet the needs of all our students and to prepare them for the skills they needed to master for future success on the NJASK.

The new district elementary school progress reports were distributed for the first time in October. The revised reports gave parents a clear indication of how their children were adjusting to their new grade levels. In early December you can expect to see our new report cards also.

Teachers around the district began to be trained in the new Everyday Math 3 edition that we at Jefferson School are piloting this year. All district elementary schools will adopt the new edition of this outstanding math program next year. The program publishers, the Wright Group, sent trainers to our school to help teachers adopt the program, as well as, to answer questions regarding the implementation of the program in our classrooms.

Our school Cybrary is nearing completion and should be ready for use within the next few weeks. New customized book cases, a 72 inch Smartboard complete with mounted projector, a 52 inch plasma TV, and boxes and boxes of new books were all delivered and set up in our new state of the art facility. Look forward to the “Grand Opening” in the near future.

On a social note, The Halloween “Spooktacular” sponsored by the Jefferson School PA was a major success despite some pretty challenging weather conditions. Hundreds of people braved the rain and wind to attend our annual event that ushers in the celebration of Halloween. The chills and thrills of the evening were enjoyed by all in attendance. Thanks to the members of the Parents’ Association, parents, friends and the faculty/staff volunteers for all the time and effort that they put in to ensure the night would be a huge success.

October ended with our first Book Fair sponsored by the Scholastic Book Company. Since one of our school goals is to promote literacy in our building, the students took advantage of purchasing wonderful books to help enjoy some independent reading. We appreciate the efforts of Mrs. Danielle Tulgar and her merry band of parent volunteers for all their efforts in helping organize this event.

October wouldn’t be October without our annual Halloween Parade. Our students dressed in all their Halloween “finery” and paraded around our school field on a beautiful, sunny, Friday afternoon. We thank all those who attended to cheer on our Halloween revelers. The class parties were a wonderful way to end such a special day. Thanks to the class parents for all their hard work and for providing all the goodies for our students.

**Please be aware and take note that we have a new phone system. Please call our school number 201-385-8804 and listen to the prompts and extensions on the answering message. You can now call one number to access all offices and the attendance hotline.**

As November arrives, keep in mind that there will be no classes for students on November 3rd, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> due to Election Day and the NJEA Teacher Convention weekend. Classes will resume at regular time on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

On Veteran’s Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, our students in Grades 3-5 will venture up to Bergenfield High School where they will celebrate Veteran’s Day in style with the Bergenfield High School Marching Band, who will perform a musical presentation that will not only highlight the talents of the band but also introduce students to the number of different instruments that comprise the award winning marching band. There will also be a

dedication of the new sports field to local veterans. It is so important that we promote an appreciation of the bravery that those who risked and gave their lives for our country displayed in championing the cause of freedom.

The second round of Progress Reports will take place on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Starting the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate "American Education Week". A list of events and times for classroom visits will be sent home. We welcome you to join us and see what goes on in our classrooms every day. Please keep your calendar open.

The Jefferson School Parents' Association will hold their monthly meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm which is the day after the monthly Bergenfield Board of Education Public Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm in the front cafeteria of Bergenfield High School.

Math Madness Day will be on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Our students will wear various math facts and problems printed on name labels for the day in hopes to raise an awareness regarding the importance of knowing math facts.

Parent Conferences will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> (5:30 - 7:30pm) and November 20<sup>th</sup> (1:30 - 3:30pm). Information regarding scheduling appointments will be forthcoming over the next week.

Our Thanksgiving Feast (my favorite day of the year) will take place on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a day when all our students sit down and share a Thanksgiving luncheon with one another and reflect on how fortunate they are to have all that they have. Of course, we will be looking for volunteers to help us on the serving line! If you are able to join us as a volunteer, please contact the main office or the PA directly.

We will have a four hour session on Wednesday, November 25 to help usher in the Thanksgiving holiday. Classes will resume on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

I wish all members of our Jefferson Family a happy, peaceful and healthy Thanksgiving. This special holiday gives us the chance to reflect on how fortunate we are and to embrace the true spirit of "family". From my family to yours—Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Yours with Jefferson School Pride,



## **4 HOUR DAYS** **NOVEMBER 20<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**

Please remember that on 4 hour days we begin school early.

**A.M. Kindergarten** - 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**P.M. Kindergarten**- 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 pm

**Grades 1 - 5** - 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Our late bell rings at 8:30 a.m. Students should arrive by 8:25 a.m.

## **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.

## **NEED EXTRA MONEY???** **LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS** **NEEDED!!!**



Need extra money? We have the position for you right here at Jefferson School.

Lunchroom supervisors should have a love of children and an ability to organize student games. The hours for Lunch Supervisors are 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Days can be flexible). The application process is lengthy, so please call Mrs. Polly at 201-385-8804 immediately so she can get you started.

Come have fun with the children and earn some extra spending money!!!

# JEFFERSON SCHOOL PLEDGE

*We the student citizens of Jefferson School agree that we must always show respect to ourselves, to our fellow students, to our teachers, and to our school.*

*We are responsible for coming to school each day with a positive attitude prepared to make good choices, to complete our school work, and to be ready to learn.*

*We should always be considerate of others and demonstrate good manners and proper behavior at all times.*

*We understand that it is important to be proud of who we are, proud of all we do, and proud of our school.*

## **From the Health Office:**

### **Great American Smoke Scream:**

Jefferson students will participate in the Great American Smoke Scream on November 19<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the school day we will all scream "Don't Start, Don't Smoke"!! We hope that this message will stay with our students through their teen years.



### **Hat Parade Fund Raiser:**

Our fund raiser for hats for cancer research was a huge success and we also enjoyed wearing hats for a day. The fifth graders did a great job presenting this project to the students in other grades.

### **Screenings:**

Health screenings for weight, height, vision, hearing and blood pressure of all students are in progress. If you have received a letter about your child's screening and have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

### **Easy Formula for Good Health For Children - Five- Two-One- Almost None**

**5** - Eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables a day.

**2** - Spend no more than two hours in front of a screen ( TV, video games, computer)

**1** - Do at least one hour of physical activity per day ( running, jumping, bike riding . . .)

**0** - Drink almost no sugary beverages – soft drinks, sports drinks and fruit drinks that are not 100% fruit juice. Instead choose water, milk or 100% fruit juice.

**Attention Parents of Fourth Graders-** If you haven't already done so, please send the pink form with your child's current physical exam to the health office or let me know when your child's physical is scheduled. If you would like your child to have a physical by the school doctor she will be doing physicals at school on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please sign the consent for this and return to the health office.

### **A reminder of when to keep you child home from school.**

1. Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the last 24 hours.
2. Temperature of 100 or higher within the last 24 hours. Your child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
3. If strep throat is suspected but the results of a throat culture has not yet been received.
4. If your child has strep throat she/he may return to school 24 hours after an antibiotic has been started.
5. Any symptoms of illness
6. If your child's illness required a doctor's visit, please ask the doctor for a note for school. This should include a diagnosis, treatment and any school restrictions. This helps us monitor and modify your child's school day.

### **Banana Splits Group:**

We are planning on starting up the Banana Splits group. This group is a support group for students whose parents are divorced or separated. The goal of this group is for children to experience a commonality with others who share similar life styles. Information about this group will be sent home within the next two weeks.



### **ALL AROUND THE TOWN IN KINDERGARTEN**

Kindergarten students were very busy this month learning all about important helpers in their communities. We began by reading the story Ms. Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip with Kindergarten. The students learned about some of the community helpers they might find in their own neighborhoods. Some of the helpers from the story were: bakers, librarians, police officers, fire fighters, and postal workers. The students have begun to meet some of these helpers in their own classroom. The students met members of the Bergenfield Fire Department and even saw real fire trucks. Detective McFee also came and taught us all about “dangerous strangers” and Halloween safety. The students will further their knowledge by taking a field trip to the Bergenfield Police Department later in November. I look forward to scheduling more trips to other places in the community throughout the year!

Math has been so much fun so far this year! Students have been really learning the meaning of numbers and have been busy counting objects and developing their number sense. We’ve even played some games to practice the “tricky teen” numbers and have even incorporated technology into their learning. The students have also been learning rhymes to help them remember how to form their numbers up to ten. I sent a list of the rhymes home with your child in the beginning of the year. We have been using a multisensory approach to remembering to form our numbers from the top down and moving the pencil in the correct direction. The students have really been showing success with this hands-on method of learning. I’m so proud of them!

We have also been very busy building our foundation for reading. As many of you may notice, your child is developing into a real reader. I cannot stress enough the importance of your role in this process. Thank you for completing the weekly reading logs in a consistent manner. This is just one of many ways you are showing your involvement in your child’s journey towards becoming a more fluent reader. Again, please speak to me if you would like further information about how to help your child at home. I’m here to help. Also, thank you to all of the parents who volunteered at our Fun Family Fridays reading club. Even if you have already read once, we would love to have you back!

### **OUTRAGEOUS OCTOBER IN 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE**

First grade has had a really outrageous October! We have done many exciting things, and are looking forward to so many more to come. We have started a reading incentive program and are filling in a chart at home. We have already read lots of books in both of our classes! Keep up the great work everybody, and keep up the reading! Reading at home with someone after school, is a terrific way to improve your skills! Make sure to ask a first grader about nouns. We have been working hard to remember all about people, places and things. We would be so happy to show off what we have learned. Mrs. Giordano’s and Mrs. Valente’s classes have both been enjoying spending time with our fifth grade reading buddies. It is so much fun to read with them!



We have started to work on telling time in math. Each of us made our own clocks and we can all tell the difference between the hour and the minute hand. If we continue to work as hard as we have been, we will be telling perfect time in no time! Please practice counting nickels and pennies at home. We will soon be working on counting and recognizing new coins.

Our book fair was this month and we were all so excited to go shopping for fun new books to read right in our gym. We were so lucky to have the firemen come to visit us for fire prevention week. All of us have had a great time working on fall projects and activities. Let’s continue to work hard in all of our subjects to keep this a fantastic fall in first grade!

### **A “BOO”TIFUL OCTOBER**

What a “bootiful” October it has been. Second grade has been extremely busy. We have had so many projects and covered so much material; it’s hard to write it all down.

We’ve finished our first unit this month in our new reading book. This unit had us exploring many places in our world. As a result of each journey we found out very interesting facts about space, the desert, camping, and life as an ant. We worked on fall stories, created pumpkin pals and then wrote stories involving our pals in some interesting



predicaments, and we also wrote about a spooky night. Thanks to all of our family members that were able to stop by our classes to help out!

Math has us reading, writing, and memorizing base ten facts. We are continuing to tell time and to count money. Everyday Math incorporates games into our lessons and we've started playing several fun and interesting games. Ask your child about "Beat the Calculator". We used dominos, dice, and pennies to explore number sentences. We've had a great time. Please help us practice our base 10 facts each night.

In Science, we are investigating plant life. Students have compared numerous types of plants to see how they are alike and different. We sang songs to remember the parts of the plants, what they need to live, and how they move from place to place. We may even plant a few seeds in November to watch what happens!

We studied Community Helpers in Social Studies. We even had a few visit and share what it takes to be a nurse, pharmacist, EMT worker and a firefighter. The classes enjoyed every presentation and we thank the parents who took time out of their day to visit. We recited a wonderful poem about different community helpers that work to transport things around us. We love our community helpers!

The Halloween Parade was a fun experience. Our children had such good times at the class parties. We'd like to thank all the parents who participated in making our class parties great as well, as our class parents.

The Spooktacular night was a huge success. The children had a great time. Thanks, PA. Job well done☺

Let's get ready to talk turkey!!

## October- A Bootiful Month

Third Graders had a "Bootiful October" filled with a variety of educational and fun activities such as our Multi-Cultural Projects and our Pumpkin Project Extravaganza.

We began the month talking about our colorful cultures, and then decided to create multi-cultural projects. Each child was asked to present an overview of his/her cultural background by giving an oral presentation including at least one prop. The boys and girls are to be commended for an outstanding job! We learned that even though we come from so many different backgrounds, we have

so much in common. Please take time to view these fantastic projects in the third grade hallway

Did you know that you could estimate how many seeds are in a pumpkin by the number of ribs on the outside of it? Did you also know that the color of the pumpkin gives you an idea how long the pumpkin has been on its vine? These two problems were investigated during our Pumpkin Project Extravaganza. After listening to the delightful story **How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin**,



third graders estimated the number of seeds in a small, medium and large size pumpkin. Next, the classes learned that writing a "How to essay" could be lots of fun if you write as you complete each step. **Sooooo...**As Miss Vogel and Mrs. Kruimer completed each step of how to carve a pumpkin, the class figured out how to write the steps using signal words for correct sequencing. We appreciate the help Mrs. Blasius gave us by reminding us to use the "**Show Don't Tell**" method of writing an interesting essay. Everyone had a great time, and each class left with a Jack-o' Lantern for their classroom.

Finally, how can we forget the great Halloween parties that were given to us by our Class Parents? Everyone looked **Rooooo**tiful, Spooky or Scary in his/her varied costumes. The parade was fun, and the treats were delicious. Parents, thanks for a great afternoon!

Well, that's about it for October! Gobble!!! Gobble!!! I think I heard that familiar sound in the Third Grade hallway. Be on the look out for our **Turkeys in Disguise**- our annual Third Grade happening coming soon to Jefferson School.

## AN OUTSTANDING OCTOBER IN FOURTH GRADE

As part of the Everyday Math program, the students have been brushing up on their multiplication facts from third grade. While exploring the Times Tables, the students were able to make the connection that multiplication facts are directly related to division facts. For example,  $5 \times 7 = 35$  and  $35/5 = 7$ . Ask your fourth grader to share some multiplication and division "Fact Families" with you.



In Language Arts, the students continued reading stories of various

genres while learning skills such as sequence, author's purpose, and cause/effect. The fourth graders have also been quite busy writing! At the conclusion of our first unit of study, the students wrote a personal narrative reflecting a time when they felt they were a newcomer to a setting or situation. The fourth graders did a wonderful job of keeping their audience and purpose in mind when responding to this prompt. Toward the end of the month, students were asked to apply writing skills, such as "Show Don't Tell," to respond to the story starter: "It was a spooky night". The students enjoyed writing these creative stories!

As we ended our unit of study in Social Studies, the students were able to work cooperatively to create maps, of New Jersey's four regions and their features, out of Play Dough. The students defined each region by making it a different color. The students then molded each region to reflect the type of land that is found there: mountains, hills, plateaus, or lowlands. Landmarks, such as important cities, farm land, the shore, urban areas, and suburban areas were then added to the maps. To help others understand their maps, each group also created a map key. While this project sure was a great deal of fun, the fourth graders also learned an awful lot about the great state of New Jersey!

The fourth graders are now taking a break from Social Studies and have turned their attention to the Foss Science Kits. Each class received a kit that explores a different topic, such as Magnetism/Electricity, Earth Studies, and Measurement. The kits will be rotated throughout the year so that each class will have the opportunity to learn about each different topic. The Foss program allows students to learn about science through exploration and hands-on investigations. Ask your child about the investigations they have completed in class, as well as, the important lessons they have learned from each one.

While the fourth graders are excited about what they have learned in fourth grade so far, there are so many great lessons and activities that lie ahead. The students can't wait to find out what they will learn about next!

### **OUTSTANDING OCTOBER IN 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

As autumn commenced, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade took a field trip to Stony Hill Farms in Chester,



New Jersey, to navigate their way through the Rainforest themed corn maze. The fifth graders were separated into teams, led by a chaperone, and had to try to find their way through the farm's 10-acre maze. Although the task seemed impossible, the students worked together to make decisions and solve puzzles about the Rainforest along the way. Luckily all groups were successful in finding their way to the end of the maze. Thank you to all chaperones who volunteered their time to help us on our trip.

In Reading, the fifth graders have successfully finished their first unit of study and have begun Unit 2. During this unit we will focus on the literacy terms, plot, character, cause and effect, sequence, compare and contrast, and author's purpose. In Writing, the students carried out the writing process to publish their character sketches. The students focused on using their voice as a writer in choosing words that "show" emotion rather than "tell" emotion in their writing. The students are now beginning work on completing the Unit 1 writing prompt which requires students to write a personal narrative explaining a challenge they have faced and the actions they took to overcome their challenge.

In Science, we continued our unit on Environments, where we worked with beetles and isopods to learn about environmental preferences. The students conducted controlled experiments to determine if these organisms prefer living in dry, moist, or wet soil as well as if they prefer light or dark conditions. We also planted seeds in various soil types to determine the optimum conditions for growth. After observing the growth of the plants for several weeks, the students were able to draw a conclusion about each plant's range of tolerance for water. Next month, our studies will focus on hatching brine shrimp as well as setting up and observing a classroom aquarium.



In Math, the students completed Unit 2, Estimation and Computation. Throughout this unit, the students examined algorithms for addition, subtraction and multiplication through many motivating activities. The students worked in partner and cooperative groups to play games such as Subtraction Target Practice, High Number Too: Decimal Version and Multiplication Bull's Eye, just to name a few of the games we enjoyed. The students also reviewed an alternate multiplication algorithm called Lattice. The Lattice algorithm is an ancient method invented in India, which allows students to use simple computation and makes multiplying multiple digit numbers easier. We have begun Unit 3 and are having lots of fun exploring Geometry.

In Social Studies, we have been analyzing Chapter 5, “The Struggle to Found Colonies”. We began by exploring Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in 1607. Then we continued our study by investigating how the French and Dutch also established colonies in North America. We delved into the search for religious freedom, as well as the survival and leadership skills needed to help the colonists survive in this new land. Some of the important leaders we discussed were William Penn, Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson. We completed our investigation in 1733, where we identified the 13 English colonies and summarized the reason why each colony was founded. In Chapter 6 we will investigate colonial life and how each colony developed in a different way.

### **WRITING CLASS NEWS FROM MRS. BLASIUS**

My classes are in full swing now. The second grade writers have been introduced to the Six Traits of Good Writing and are now learning about the most important trait, Ideas. We’ve collected our “seed ideas” from things we’ve experienced in our lives and will use these to write throughout the year. The book Something Beautiful gave us the idea to write about something “that makes our hearts happy”. Students will be bringing to class an object that reminds them of a happy feeling. We will work together through the writing process as we describe our special memento.

Grades three, four and five writing classes have reviewed the Six Traits as we recalled what we remembered about good writing. We’re now all practicing using descriptive language by “Showing, Not Telling”. Using highlighted crafting elements we are writing a variety of “Showing” stories and descriptions. These crafting elements include such things as showing the character’s thoughts and feelings, dialogue, figurative language, active verbs, specific vocabulary, examples, and sensory images.

Grade 4 has been looking closely at literature models to observe how writers show the season and time, both aspects of the setting. We are now working individually on describing specific times of the day. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade writers are exploring how writer’s show feelings. Each one of us is making a poster showing all the body actions and thoughts associated with a different feeling. Our writing piece will be about a character experiencing the assigned feeling. When we make sure to include all of the crafting elements we are really impressed with how our writing sounds!

The entire school helped to celebrate the First National Day on Writing by writing a descriptive “showing” piece about a spooky night. I have selected some of the best of these to display in our hallways.

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

Our Halloween “Spooktacular” was a tremendous success! It is our second biggest fundraiser and without the support of faculty and parents, it would not be possible.

We would like to thank all of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade volunteers for all of their help with the set-up and break-down of the Spooktacular!

Thank you to the faculty members and TAP students for all your help in the game room. Your dedication to our students does not go unnoticed!

We would also like to thank all the parents who donated baked goods as well as the the following parents for all of their help: Ms. Picca, Mrs. Kouri, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Kumor, Mrs. DeRosa, Mrs. Aguirre, Mrs. Barsatan, Mrs. Gallo, Mrs. Ching, Ms. Schroth, Mrs. Gibb, Mrs. Philpott, Mrs. Tulgar, Mrs. Haag, Mr. & Mrs. DaCosta, Mrs. Aviles, Mr. Dorsett, Mr. Kazarian, Mr. Ravagnan, Mr. Kaszner, and Mr. Macaluso.

Thank you also to Tom and Kevin for **always** going above and beyond the call of duty!!

Congratulations to Maryann Acevedo, the winner of our October PA meeting raffle!

Congratulations to Anthony Frangiosa, the winner of the Halloween Candy Corn Contest!

We hope to see you at our next meeting on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm., in the gym.

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