

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



It seems like only yesterday that I was writing the “Welcome Back” notice in early September, but it is now time for the official, “first” Monthly Newsletter. For those of you who are receiving the Newsletter for the first time, the intent is to keep the school community informed about

with the latest happenings in and around our school and to highlight important topics relevant to our students. Each staff member contributes articles to the newsletter to keep everyone in the school community informed about grade level and school-wide events, accomplishments, and goals for the future.

The school year began smoothly and our students have done a tremendous job of transitioning into their new grade levels with their new teachers. Undoubtedly, you have noticed the cosmetic changes around the building, as well as, some changes in procedures/protocol since last year. Like any great organization, we are always evolving and looking to do things better. Everything we do centers around a common theme of doing what is best for our students. We are fiercely committed to providing the highest quality learning environment for our students. Our goal is to help them become life long learners and to give them the life skills they need to ensure that they become positive, intelligent and informed citizens in the future. Together, with your support, we can provide our children with a memorable elementary school experience that they will always value.

Early in September our NJASK scores for last year’s third, fourth, and fifth graders arrived on my desk. Our students did very well, as they always do, as a result of their own efforts, your support, and the commitment of our outstanding educators. Scores have been sent home for you to evaluate. We use the scores as data to help plan our instruction and make sure that our students receive the proper support services whenever needed. If you need any help in interpreting the data on the Individual Student Reports, contact me

and I will be happy to review your child’s results with you. Currently, our teachers are conducting district assessments of all our students in Reading and Math to help customize our instructional delivery to the individual needs of our students. I’m sure the kids will be telling you about the “cool tests” they took on the laptop computers!

Our Open House Back to School Night was well attended. The evening gave you the opportunity to meet our teachers and learn all about our goals and expectations for this school year. Thank you for coming out that evening. We were delighted with the turn out and applaud your support and concern for our children.

October is one of the busiest and most exciting months of our school year. All the activity is geared towards our Halloween “Spooktacular” on Friday, October 23rd and the Halloween Parade on October 30th. Information will be sent home as we get closer to these dates.

There will be a Fire Prevention Assembly here on October 5th at 10:00am sponsored by the Bergenfield Fire Department. The Bergenfield Police Department will fingerprint our Kindergarteners and all new students on Wednesday, October 7th. The idea is to create a record of all students in order to ensure their safety.

The Jefferson School Parents’ Association is the heart and soul of our school community. They will be holding their monthly meeting on October 13th. Please join us as we plan for the Halloween “Spooktacular” and other upcoming events. There is no greater way to get involved in our school community than to be part of our Parents’ Association.

The first “Coffee with Mr. Beattie” will take place at 9:00am on October 15th. This is a chance for us to sit down and learn more about our school community while enjoying a fresh cup of coffee. I will plan a couple of similar events in the future for evening hours to accommodate those of you who can’t make the morning meetings. Feel free to bring baked goods to share!

The first Scholastic Book Fair of the year is scheduled for October 28th and 29th. We are promoting literacy with our students and have implemented a “Library Card” challenge. The first class in which every child gets a library card from

the Bergenfield Public Library will receive a pizza party lunch on me. I always say that the public library is the “best deal in town” and I mean it. I ask you to join us in promoting reading/literacy with our students.

Like I said earlier, the “Spooktacular” and the Halloween Parade festivities will be coming up at the end of the month and I will be forwarding the information to you as we get closer to those dates.

As you are aware, we are looking to secure the traffic around our school in the morning and after school. Lieutenant Cathy Madalone has been very supportive of our initiatives in helping secure the safety of our children. Please continue to cross our students at the crossing guard station only and do not park directly in front of the building when dropping off or picking up students. Three point turns are not permitted on Hickory Avenue as they compromise the safety of others in the vicinity of the school. Please help us keep our children safe!

I am asking parents to not congregate on the blacktop area before school. The safeties and the students are expected to assemble in lines that have been pre-established from the beginning of the year. I was very tolerant for the first two weeks of school, but please allow us to do our job and ensure the safety of our kids by dropping them off, then leaving the blacktop area. We are trying to teach valuable lessons about personal responsibility in a very subtle manner. We want to build self confidence in our children and one way to do so is to allow them to take responsibility for lining up properly in the correct location prior to the entry bell in the morning. There is no need for anyone to stand near a class line in the morning as it only undermines our school entry procedure. Parents can wait outside the fenced area, or in the immediate driveway entrance on Johnson Ave leading onto the blacktop. I understand how hard it is to say “goodbye” to our children in the morning; I have to do it every morning myself for my own daughter before I come to school. Her school, like ours, has a procedure that I must follow in order to model for her the respect she should have for school rules and procedures. Please help support this request.

As you know, every Friday we like to end the week with a special theme day for our students. Due to a request from a parent, I will list the themes for every Friday on the school calendar so that parents are aware and prepared for “Hat Day”, or “Hippie Flashback Fridays” etc...

Recently, I have been concerned over some of the shows our students are exposed to when watching TV at home. Often, shows that seem harmless are really giving the wrong message to young children. At home, I have been very conscious of some shows that my seven year old daughter watches regularly and have taken the steps to find alternatives to shows that she thinks

are “cool”. Please be aware of the Parental Guidelines that appear 15 seconds before a show begins to air. Shows can be blocked and should be if you feel uncomfortable with the content regardless of how your child feels. A list of TV ratings can be found in this newsletter.

The following are tips that you can use to help your children develop positive TV viewing habits:

- 1. Set limits to the amount of time that your child can watch TV/movies and play video games. Try not to have a TV in your child’s bedroom and never let a child watch TV while doing homework.**
- 2. Plan what to watch and don’t allow your child to flip through channels and thus enhance the risk of coming across a show that might catch their eye and not be suitable for children. Have them watch the show they plan to watch and turn the TV off when that show is over.**
- 3. Watch TV whenever you can with your child. You will be quick to realize when a show is not what you think your child should be watching. You are the adult and you have the final say!!!**
- 4. Find shows that have the right message for your children. Stay away from shows that stereotype people by age, sex, class, race, or even hair color!!!**
- 5. Help your child resist commercials. Explain to them that the purpose of a commercial is to get them to want you to buy something for them. The purpose of a commercial is to get people to want things that they don’t need**
- 6. Check ratings for DVDs and Videos to make sure that they are appropriate for your child.**
- 7. Give your child an alternative to watching TV. Playing games, coloring, doing a hobby, reading, playing a sport, practicing an instrument, or actually talking to someone and telling them a story, can all be healthy options to watching TV.**
- 8. Set a good example for your kids. Stay away from watching adult content shows while your child is awake, or in the same room as you. Make sure that older siblings are sensitive to your concerns and do not allow them to watch programming that could negatively influence your child while your child is awake or with their sibling.**
- 9. Clearly let your children know why you do not want them to watch a certain show. Explain why you think the show is not appropriate and stick to your**

words/ideals—remember you are the boss, you are the parent, and you are paying the cable bill!!!

In closing, thank you for all your support in helping to get the year off to a good start. I will keep everyone informed and updated of the latest developments taking place during the month. Keep in mind that we need and want your support and input. Together we can do wonderful things for our children and provide them with a learning opportunity that will shape their outlook for the rest of their lives.

Yours with Jefferson School pride.

Hugh E. Beattie

PHONE NUMBER UPDATES



If you have any new phone numbers, please make sure to notify the office to have them added to your Emergency Contact card.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Thank you for all your efforts to have the children prepared for school and arriving on time. If your child is absent please call us at **201-385-9187** and leave a message. You can also call the school during our regular office hours. This is particularly important if you 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

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.



October Healthy Happenings:

Welcome back everyone!

We have started back at school with a minimum of colds and viruses however with the arrival of fall, the cooler weather and being together again we will begin to see the arrival of infectious illnesses and frequency of asthma episodes. In order to ensure a healthy environment at Jefferson school, I am asking all parents to follow these guidelines:

1. A child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
2. A child must have no vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.
3. Please bring in a note from home or from the physician's office upon returning to school if your child has had a doctor's visit.
4. Your child should be acting like him/herself (eating, drinking, and playing) before returning to school.
5. Encourage your child to wash his/her hands frequently – this is the best way to prevent the spread of germs.

6. If your child has asthma medication, please check that we have medication for him/her in the health office.

Please remember to update your child's health information whenever there is new information regarding illnesses, allergies, eye glasses, medication, or changes in phone numbers or emergency contacts. If your child has asthma and needs medication in school, please have your physician complete an asthma action plan for the school health records.

Hat Parade:

On Friday, October 16th Jefferson school will have a hat parade day. Students can wear their favorite hat in school for the day. This year we are asking students to donate \$1.00 which will be contributed to a foundation for research to treat pancreatic cancer. All students may wear a hat that day but contributions are on a voluntary basis. The Fifth graders as part of their Youth Power project will be helping with this event.

Fire Safety House:

On October 28th The St. Barnabus Hospital Fire Safety House will visit Jefferson School for their presentation on keeping safe in the home. This is a program for 3rd graders. We will be sending home permission slips to participate in this program.

Nutrition Tips:

- Make the move away from fast foods. Instead of buying chicken nuggets at a fast food establishment make your own at home by sautéing bite size pieces of lean chicken breast in olive or canola oil.
- Watch portion amounts. A healthy serving of protein should be about the size of the fist of the person who is eating the meal. Children should not be eating the same size portion as a grown adult.

Fitness Tips:

- Children need to be active at least for an hour each day. Allow kids to be outdoors as much as possible where they can run and play.
- Encourage your child to wear sneakers most days of the week so they can run about more easily.

4th Grade Parents:

Please send a copy of your child's physical examination. We require all 4th graders to have a recent physical in their school records. If you are requesting a physical by the school doctor please notify me as soon as possible as the doctor will be coming to school in November.

Have a healthy autumn.

Carolyn Niederman RN, APN

GREAT BEGINNINGS IN KINDERGARTEN!



It's only been one month and the Kindergarten class is off to a terrific start! The first task the kindergarteners had to tackle was getting into their routines. This is one of the most important things that students must master in order to ensure a successful school year.

In addition to working on their classroom routines, students have been trying to follow the classroom rules. As part of the Responsive Classroom Program, the students first brainstormed their hopes and dreams for the year and then used them to create three main classroom rules. These rules are; be nice, listen when others are talking, and keep our bodies calm. The students have been studying how these rules look and feel when they are being followed. They also understand that in order for their hopes and dreams to be achieved, they must follow the rules at all times. So far, they are doing a fantastic job!

Next month, I will be introducing Fun Family Fridays. Every Friday, families are invited to read a story to the class. The readers can be anybody special in your child's life. There is no limit as to how many times you come to read...the more the better! You may bring a picture book from home or select one from our classroom library. The children always look forward to Fridays to see what special guest we will be having. It is a truly rewarding activity for both the families and the children. I am strongly encouraging everybody to participate!!! Please send me an email or talk to me at pickup to sign up for a time.



FABULOUS MONTH IN FIRST GRADE

It has been a fabulous first month in the first grade. We have really enjoyed getting to know each other over the last few weeks. Our morning meetings are a great chance to share, and learn something new about our friends every day. We sure enjoy getting together and starting our morning off on the right foot together!

There have been lots of new things to learn as we start first grade. Everyone is trying their best to learn and remember the rules, to respect our classmates and teachers, and to work hard! Staying in school for lunch has been an exciting new thing for us as well, and we sure are enjoying it!

In reading we have started learning some short vowel sounds. We have already read some of the stories in our new book. Short a, o and i sounds are in so many words, and we have been looking out for them everywhere! We have even started taking spelling tests in the first grade, and we have sure made our teachers proud!

Math has gotten off to a great start. Numbers are all around us, in school, at home and even when we are walking down the street. First graders have been hard at work finding numbers on calendars, on signs, on clocks, on our televisions at home and even on our stoves!. We are even learning how to use tally marks to show numbers! We all have corrected our own number stories, and illustrated them as well. Number stories can tell us about anything. Eighteen great students in Mrs. Giordano's class plus nineteen great students in Mrs. Valente's class equals thirty seven wonderful first graders! $18+19=37$

Thank you to everyone who has sent in tissues, wipes and other supplies for our classroom. We hope nobody gets the sniffles, but just in case it's great to have those tissues on hand. The wipes and soaps have helped to keep our classroom and our hands clean and germ free. Thank you again for your help!

Our fire prevention posters have been hung in the hallways and they look great! We all look forward to welcoming Fireman Marlon into our classrooms to begin the "Learn Not to Burn" lessons this year.

Each and every one of us has been working very hard to get off on the right foot for the new school year. Let's make the rest of the year as great as September has been. Make sure to read at home every night!

HOOKED ON SECOND GRADE

The second grade students have been busy getting hooked into all the wonderful "getting to know you" activities as they prepare for the coming year. Some of the activities we completed were the "Personality" bags, where students brought in items that represented themselves in a bag. We enjoyed everyone sharing their bags with each other. The whole second grade participated in the Friendship Venn Diagram Project where the students were partnered up with another student from the other second grade. The students completed the Venn diagram by making comparisons about each other. Finally, they presented the completed graphic organizer to the entire second grade.

The second graders are well on their way to becoming skilled mathematicians in money, time, and sequence. They played games that had them counting coins and bills up to 100\$. They used decks of cards to add and subtract numbers in a game called "Addition Top It". The students also played "What time is that?" when they shared thoughts about what time of the day they did different things.



We began Reading with stories about Space and Friendship. Students learned some interesting facts about space and what it takes to be an astronaut. We wouldn't be surprised if some of us grew up and decided to go into space exploration ☺

"All about Me"! That catchy phrase describes many of the writing lessons we worked on. We drew self-portrait life sized characters, wrote out newspaper articles about ourselves, and completed posters that shared many interesting facts about our families.

Open House was a great success. It was wonderful to meet many of the second grade parents. Anyone who was unable to attend may contact Mrs. Sullivan or Mrs. Stimeck for any information regarding our class procedures.

We are glad to be back. September was a blast and now onto a "Boo-tiful" October.

SWINGING INTO A NEW YEAR

Third graders are swinging into a new year but are not "monkeying" around. All students are off to a great start in third grade!! Mrs. Kruimer and Miss Vogel enjoyed getting to know each student personally when students brought in their beautiful "About Me" posters that they completed over the summer. These posters can be seen

hanging in the third grade hallway. Also hanging are apple glyphs that students completed about themselves during the first week of school.

Students were amazed to find how numbers really are everywhere! After brainstorming ideas of all of the places that numbers can be found, students completed "Math About Me" posters illustrating just a few numbers that are important in their lives.



Third Graders worked hard this month creating our "garden of goals." Each student thought hard about what they would like to learn or accomplish in third grade. They wrote these goals on a flower and added it to our garden hanging up in the

hallway. We can't wait to see these goals blossom throughout the school year!

Plants were the topic of the month in Science. Students used the FOSS Kits to complete hands on lessons and experiments involving seeds and plants. We were amazed to see that plants can grow without soil!! All our seeds needed was a little water each day. They sprouted in our "class sprouter" in only a few days! We were able to see the roots and the seedlings. Students enjoyed these activities very much!

Map skills were the topic of focus this month in Social Studies. Students learned about the oceans, continents, cardinal directions, and much more! Third graders had a great September, and we are looking forward to October when we will begin exploring the different cultures that make us all unique!

FOURTH GRADE IS IN THE RIGHT FRAME OF MIND

Fourth grade students have had a fabulous time getting to know each other and the routines of their new classes in September. The *Extra! Extra! Read All About Me!* posters were a fun way to encourage students to learn about one another and celebrate our uniqueness. We really enjoyed writing and sharing these personal articles. Students also set goals that they will work toward achieving and wrote about their hopes and dreams for this year. Of course, no class is complete without a set of rules that help maintain a safe, comfortable learning environment. Students were eager to create their own classroom rules that they felt were necessary in order to accomplish their goals and make their dreams a reality. Morning

Meetings, team-building and getting-to-know-you activities have all helped to build strong classroom communities.

Geometric figures were all around us this month in Everyday Math. Students investigated and constructed polygons with straws and twist ties and set out to make a compass. Students explored line segments, lines, rays, and angles. We also analyzed the properties of polygons. Why isn't a circle a polygon? Which polygons have parallel lines? Which quadrangle has all right angles but isn't a square? Ask your fourth grader and they will tell you!



In Language Arts, students are enjoying the weekly stories based on the Unit 1 theme, "This Land is Your Land". Students wrote a memoir about a special time or event in their lives while focusing on the writing trait, "voice," and the comprehension skill, sequencing.

The year long study of New Jersey is off to a fantastic start! We focused on the symbols, environment, weather, and geography of our great state. We will continue the study of New Jersey by studying its four distinct regions in more depth.

Students at Jefferson School are fortunate to have so many opportunities to use technology. We have started using computers and laptop carts to access Study Island, Star Reader, Star Math, and Everyday Math games.

Open House was a great success! It was a pleasure to meet so many of the fourth grade parents and we would like to thank everyone who was able to attend.

We are excited to be back and are looking forward to a wonderful year!

A TERRIFIC BEGINNING



Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! The fifth grade students are starting to get used to the many changes that fifth grade brings. Students are enjoying switching classes and learning new material. They are eagerly meeting the challenges of the new privileges that come with being a fifth grade student such as being a part of the

Table Crew or Safety Patrol.

In Language Arts, the students have been busy reviewing skills in the areas of reading, writing, grammar, and spelling. So far, we have focused on

reading skills such as cause and effect, plot, character, theme, and setting. We have been practicing these skills while reading exciting stories such as *Frindle*, *Thunder Rose*, and *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. In writing, we have focused our efforts upon incorporating a strong “voice” in our writing. We are currently working on character sketches and look forward to starting personal narratives next month.

In Science, we began a unit of hands on exploration focusing on environments. Each team of students planted a terrarium and observed the germination of five different types of seeds. We also read stories and learned about six different terrestrial biomes located throughout the world. The students are eagerly awaiting the delivery of beetles and isopods so they can study these insects’ environmental preferences.

In Math, the students began the year by exploring number theory. We reviewed many concepts such as arrays, multiplication number models and factoring. The students explored prime, composite and squared numbers. In partner groups, we played many games that enhanced their math skills. Ask your children to teach you to play the games at home, so they can continue to work on their math skills.

In Social Studies, we investigated how people migrated to the Americas and the early civilizations that they developed. The students compared and contrasted the cultures of these civilizations, as well as the artifacts that allowed us to further examine each civilization and their contributions to our modern world. We also interpreted information about climates by using a Climograph.

Literacy Tips ,Class News, and Summer Reading Update from your Reading Specialist

Hello and welcome to a new year of learning. As in previous years, I’ll be using this newsletter to give you information about what’s happening in my classes, as well as to pass along various literacy tips to help you in your role as coach and model for your children’s reading and writing.

This year I will again be coming weekly into all the classes in Grades 2 through 5 to teach writing lessons. Students who need support in writing and vocabulary in grades 3 through 5 will work with me in small groups several times weekly. TLC Enrichment classes at each grade level (1-5) will



begin shortly, also. Even if your child is not in one of my classes, please feel free to come to me with questions and concerns you may have about reading and writing.

I would like to commend the 86 students from grades 2-5 who participated in our voluntary Summer Reading program. These students not only read a quantity of books, but also took the time to fill out the appropriate response forms and turn them in to their new teachers. As a reward Mr. Beattie and I went into each classroom and handed out certificates of accomplishment to each Summer Reader. We would like to give special recognition to three readers who exceeded all expectations in the quantity of books read. Great effort Emily (22 books), Simon (34 books), and Meryl (12 books)! We were especially impressed by several new students who found out about the program on our district web site and joined in. Thanks, parents, for your support in promoting your children’s reading.

I will close with my favorite literacy tip---Please take time to read to your children. Continue to read to them even after they are capable readers themselves. Select a fiction or non-fiction book of their interest but slightly above their reading level for this special reading time. Nothing else is more important to help in developing your child into a reader and writer.

NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

The Guidance Department will be holding the first of five Parent Outreach Workshops on October 13th, 2009 at 6:30 at the Bergenfield Public Library. The program’s topic will be “Helping Your Child Succeed In School” 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. We hope to see you there and keep an eye out for the program’s flyer coming home with your children! Also look for more programs over the rest of the year!

SAFETY POSTER WINNERS



Kindergarten – 1st – Liam, 2nd – Michael, 3rd – Angel

1st Grade – 1st Kristabel, 2nd – Satyam, 3rd – John

2nd Grade – 1st – Lindsey, 2nd – Emily, 3rd – Erin

3rd Grade – 1st – Aila, 2nd Andrew, 3rd – Angelica

4th Grade – 1st – Steven, 2nd – Andrew, 3rd – Kelle

5th Grade – 1st – Emily, 2nd – Janelle, 3rd – Meryl

JSPA NEWS...

We would like to welcome you back to Jefferson School for the 2009/2010 school year. We started the year with a bang! Our meeting on September 21st was attended by **many** more parents than in years past. Thank you to all the parents who took the time to attend our first meeting, especially all of the new kindergarten parents!

We would also like to thank everyone who has joined the PA this year. If you have not sent in your annual \$10 dues, you may still do so. Just send the form and your check in an envelope marked **“JSPA Dues”** to school with your child.

Our Fall Fundraiser was a success! Thank you to all the families who participated in this fundraiser. We will continue to sell the “Smencils” throughout the year at our many different activities, so if you didn’t get a chance to buy some “Smelly” pencils at the Open House – don’t worry, they will be available at our next meeting!

Congratulations to the Greenspan family, the winners of our “Recession Buster Raffle” at the Open House!

Also, congratulations to Jacqui Gallo, the winner of our September PA meeting raffle!

We have many great events planned for the school year, starting with the return of the Halloween Spooktacular on Friday, October 23rd! We hope to

see you at our next meeting on Wednesday, October 13th at 7:00 pm.

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

