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



Despite it being the shortest month of the year, February was filled with acitivities here at Jefferson School. The celebration of Black History month coupled with the celebration for Lincoln and Washington's birthdays led us to our Patriotic Day assembly organized and

orchestrated by our music teacher, Mrs. Bullen. Our students sang and rapped their way through a thoroughly enjoyable program.

Valentine's Day was a "sweet affair" as our student sent candy grams and enjoyed classroom parties that celebrated the day. Please note that all sweets were checked, tasted, and approved by our nurse Mrs. Niederman to ensure that they complied with new state health mandates.

Our teachers have put plans into effect to begin using writing portfolios in every class. Students will select three pieces of writing that will be archived in their folders and will follow them from grade to grade. The purpose of these folders is to use the student writing as a diagnostic tool to help us customized writing instruction for each student. We will begin using the folders in the third trimester this year.

We welcomed Mr. Edward Russini as a long term maternity leave replacement for our fourth grade teacher Mrs. Young , who is at home taking care of her newborn bouncing boy. Mr. Russini took over the classroom from Mrs. Gina Philpott, who did an outstanding job for three weeks prior to Mr. Russini's appointment. Mrs. Young plans to return to our school before the end of the year.

New Jersey ASK Extended Day classes are in progress. The extra preparation for the statewide assessment will build confidence and competence in our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders prior to the testing dates in May.

Teachers from across the district are meeting with the five elementary school principals to revise and revamp our current report cards and progress reports. As you know, the district changed to

trimesters this year and created new progress reports and report cards to reflect the change. The ongoing process of revising these reports will help our teachers and families document and understand exactly how our students are progressing in school.

March is already looking like a blustery month as we start out the month delaying "Read Across America Day" due to an unexpected snow storm! We resumed our plans on Tuesday March 3rd, when students were visited by "The Cat in the Hat" and various other visitors who took time to read and discuss their love of reading with our students.

Our children got the chance to "hang out in the hallways" with a good book after lunch. Many of our young readers brought their favorite pillows and stuffed animals to add to the relaxation time reading their favorite book.

One of the highlights of the month is our Kindergarten Registration for the 2009/10 school year. It's always a thrill to meet our future Jeffersonians and impress upon them and their parents that our school is the right place to be. The registration period is on March $3^{\rm rd}$, $4^{\rm th}$ and $5^{\rm th}$.

Parent Conferences are scheduled for Friday, March 6th. Please remember that it will be a FOUR HOUR SESSION FOR STUDENTS. The day runs from 8:30am until 12:30pm when the students are dismissed. Parent Conferences are scheduled from 1:30 – 3:30pm.

In March, we welcome back Mrs. Katherine Passman, our school psychologist, who will be returning from maternity leave. Mrs. Passman's position has been filled by Dr. Joseph Cioffi since the beginning of the year. Dr. Cioffi has been a huge asset to our school and we thank him for all his efforts on behalf of our students.

On March 17th our students will be invited to wear green to school as we celebrate "Green Day" in honor of our favorite Irish American Holiday, St. Patrick's Day.

The Parents' Association will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00pm. Our "March Madness" essay winners will read their award winning essays that evening.

Spring school pictures sponsored by Lifetouch will be held on March 26th. Information will be sent home as we receive it.

The PA will sponsor a Family Fun Night on Friday, March 27th. Put the date on your calendar now because it is sure to be an event you won't want to miss!

I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND THOSE PARENTS WHO BRING LUNCH IN FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO PLEASE HAVE THE LUNCH AT SCHOOL BY 11:00AM. Our lunch supervisors are very busy preparing lunches for their classes and would appreciate your help if you could bring the lunches in a little earlier. Thank you!

I would like to end by thanking everyone for their cooperation regarding the driving and parking situation in and around our school. I am so happy to see that you support our goal to keep our students safe at all times.

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.





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 <u>201-385-9187</u> and leave a

message. You can also call the school 201-385-8804 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.



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.

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 and

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 <u>breatherville.org</u> or call 800-878-4403 that is full of information about allergies and asthma.

Nutrition Tip:

Breakfast cereal is good for kids if it is nutritious. However most breakfast cereals marketed to children have more fat and sugar and less nutritional value than cereals marketed to adults.

Tips for choosing healthy cereals for kids:

- Don't be seduced by the covers of cereal boxes which have nothing to do with what the cereal is actually about.
- Avoid cereals that have more than 4-5 grams of sugar per serving or have the the following high on the ingredient list: sugar, brown sugar, molasses, corn syrup, cane juice, fructose, and malt syrup.
- Avoid cereals that have more than 3 grams of fat per serving.
- Avoid cereals with hydrogenated oils, dyes, artificial colors and chemical preservatives.
- Choose cereals with at least 4 grams of fiber per serving.
- If your child is used to the "sweet" cereals, wean him/her off them by mixing his/her sugary cereal with a healthy cereal

Pennies for Puppies:

This year the 5th Graders as part of their Youth Power Project will be conducting a fund raiser for The Seeing Eye Foundation called "Pennies for Puppies". This organization trains dogs to be companions for visually impaired persons. Students will learn about service dogs and will have a presentation from a representative from the Seeing Eye on

March 19th. We will conduct this fund raiser through March.

Carolyn Niederman RN, APN

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 growth as students and learners. I am so proud of them!!



Many of you may have heard about a pen pal the students have been writing to, Specialist Brian Roth, who is currently stationed in Iraq as a member of the National Guard. Due to the power of technology, we received a DVD from Brian, in which he read the story If You Give a Mouse a Cookie dedicated to the Kindergarteners of Jefferson School. They were so excited to be able to link a face to the person they have been writing to all year long. It is even more exciting that Specialist Roth will be paying the class a visit in March while seeing his family here in New Jersey. The children can't wait to meet him!

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 somebody. Some ideas were to invite them to play a game, help their parents around the house, or simply tell somebody "I love you!" Their stories were extremely touching and the students enjoyed reading them aloud to their classmates.

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 1ST GRADE

The Jefferson School first graders have been working hard this month and having a fantastic time. We have been working on our reading skills



and have come so far since September. We were even lucky enough to have a visit from the "Cat in the Hat" right here at Jefferson School! With "Read Across America Day", and Dr. Seuss's birthday coming up, it was a nice surprise to have a visit from such a famous

character! All of the first graders enjoyed seeing someone we have read about come to life right here in our classrooms! 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. 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 and had so much fun. We are all one hundred days smarter! 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 FANTASTIC FEBRUARY IN 2ND GRADE

February has been a fantastic month in second grade! All the students have been working hard to learn new things. We are so proud of the great job the students did at the Patriotic Assembly! Everyone had a wonderful time singing the "Presidential Rap" in honor of President's Day. We also have been reading many interesting stories and facts about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.



Everyone enjoyed our Valentine's Day and 100th Day celebration. In writing, we wrote letters to our friends listing the qualities we liked most about them. It was so nice to receive a heartfelt note from a special friend!

The second grade has been doing a fantastic job in Math. We have been working hard to solve subtraction problems that require trades. We have also been learning multiplication and division!

February has been a fantastic month! We are all looking forward to March and the spring months ahead!

A FABULOUS FEBRUARY IN 3RD GRADE

February was a short but sweet month! We hope everyone enjoyed the winter break and feels

rejuvenated. Now it's time to get back to learning!

In Language Arts, students began Unit 4, which focuses on uniqueness. Students really enjoyed the first story Wings, which was about a special boy who was one of a kind because he could fly.

Students discussed how we should embrace and celebrate our differences and uniqueness. They concluded that our world would be pretty boring if we were all the same! Third graders' writing skills continue to improve with this month's topic of word choice. Students are using exciting and descriptive words that can paint pictures in the reader's mind.

Lines, polygons, and polyhedrons were the hot topics in Math this month. Third graders learned about the characteristics of many 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional figures. They also drew and measured angles and even used them to record turns. Third graders explored lines of symmetry in shapes as well. They have done a fantastic job investigating geometry topics! The next unit will cover more challenging multiplication and division. Please encourage your child to keep on practicing and memorizing those multiplication and division facts.

Students continued to learn about different cultures and how they celebrate in Social Studies. To celebrate the Chinese New Year, students created their own dragon puppets. They also learned about the difficult challenges immigrants

face when they decide to start a new life in the United States.

The third grade's crayfish and beetles have moved to Mrs. Kruimer's room and the students are really excited about conducting science experiments with their new additions.

The students celebrated President's Day at the Patriotic Assembly. It was a huge hit and the students sang proudly about our wonderful nation. Third graders are doing an impressive job memorizing the Presidential Rap and sounded great during the performance!

Finally, we would like to thank our parents for sending in such delicious treats for our Valentine's Day parties! Students really appreciated the parties and had a blast reading cards from their classmates. Now it's time to get ready for March Madness!

BUSY MONTH IN 4TH GRADE

For a short month, February certainly was jammed pack for 4th grade. We worked hard, ate well, and learned a lot.

We completed our 3rd Unit in Reading. This time we read stories that centered on nature. Porquoi tales told us where stars came from, why we have day and night, and possible reasons that the four seasons occur. We continue our book read aloud No Talking by Andrew Clements. We even played a game taken right out of one of its chapters. Look for your child to begin reading Number the Stars in the upcoming weeks.

In Math, it was all about angles! Acute, Right, Obtuse, Straight and Reflex, we know them all! We



learned how to measure our angles using both circle and half protractors.

Do you know what a hygrometer is? Ask a fourth grader, they know. In February, we learned all about weather –

air masses, low and high pressure systems, and temperature. You might also say we "had our heads in the clouds" for a few weeks. We learned how clouds are formed and how to predict the weather just by looking at their shape. We definitely have a few meteorologists in the making!

Valentine's Day was a great theme for us as well. We had a great day full of "love" We made valentine poems for a special person in our lives, had great parties and shared valentines with our classmates.

February, being African-American history month, had our students researching famous people whose contributions we are forever grateful to have. The fourth graders did a phenomenal job on these projects. Presentations in the classroom showed us all the work put into their projects. Good Job 4th graders©!

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

We welcome Mr. Russini to our grade as we sadly say, "goodbye" to Mrs. Philpott. We thank her for her hard work and look forward to all the new things Mr. R. brings with him into our grade!

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

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

Ms. Sullivan Mrs. Philpott Mr. Russini



NEWS FROM 5TH GRADE

In Math, the fifth graders recently completed a unit on adding and subtracting positive and negative integers. In addition, students learned how to follow the order of operations when solving an equation that contained multiple operations. Students used the mnemonic device "Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally" to help them remember the order of operations. During the last week of February, we began incorporating NJASK review and practice work into our weekly classes. In order to prepare for the assessment, we will routinely work on how to solve short-constructed responses, multiple choice questions, and openended questions. Students will continue to utilize Study Island to prepare for the May assessment.

The fifth grade students continued their study of chemistry in Science class during the month of February. Students learned about the concepts of saturation and solubility by using chemicals such



as sodium chloride, citric acid, and Epsom salts to make saturated solutions. Afterward, we compared and contrasted the crystals left behind after these chemicals were dissolved in water and the water

evaporated. We then investigated the concept of

concentration by making different soft drink recipes and using our senses of sight, smell, and taste to determine which drinks were more concentrated and which were more diluted. Students have now started to search for ideas for the annual Science Fair. We look forward to viewing these wonderful projects in April.

In Language Arts, the fifth graders completed the Unit 3 Benchmark test and have moved on to Unit 4. In this Reading unit, we will focus upon skills such as drawing conclusions, forming generalizations, and using graphic sources, all while reading stories of different genres. Now that we have returned from February Break, we have incorporated NJASK review into part of our weekly routine. The students will work on test taking strategies, using the provided passages to find information, and constructing short answer responses in order to prepare for the upcoming assessment. In writing, the students have been practicing incorporating a variety of story leads and quotations into their writing.

The fifth graders continue learning about the Revolutionary War in Social Studies. The students have already learned about the first few major battles of the war and of the colonists' desire to break free from Britain. In our current chapter, the students will be focusing upon the development of The Declaration of Independence, the battles of Trenton and Saratoga, and the harsh winter at Valley Forge. The students are anxious to find out how and when the Revolutionary War will finally come to an end.

<u>Literacy Tips from your Reading Specialist:</u> Activities of Aid Listening and Reading Comprehension

Does your child seem distracted and disinterested while listening or reading? Does he/she have trouble sharing ideas about what has been heard or read or have difficulty remembering or retelling information? Here are some activities to help:

1. Take a Wild Guess (Predicting)

Before starting a new book or reading assignment, ask your child to guess what the text will be about by just looking at the cover. Then look at the pictures and captions on each page. Discuss the characters, setting and plot, and ask your child to guess what will happen in the story. He or she can adjust the predictions while reading. For non-fiction, read the section headings. Predict what will be

explained. When your child guesses before reading, he or she will spend a lot less time figuring out words and ideas during reading.

2. Hear It First:

Sometimes a little exposure to a story or text in advance is all it takes for your child to understand. Try this when your child is reading a passage with new or challenging ideas. Have your child read the title aloud and discuss it. Then read the passage to your child. Next ask your child to read the passage silently for a second "round" and then aloud to you. Discuss the passage and ask your child to tell what he has heard and read. After gathering information in three different ways, your child has a greater opportunity to understand.

3. Leave It Out (Cloze)

While reading aloud a picture book, article, poem, or chapter book in which words and ideas are easy to predict, leave out a word or words in each sentence or stanza. Invite your child to suggest a word or words. If he suggests words that do not change the meaning, keep going. If your child suggests words that don't make sense, stop reading and help him use picture clues, grammar clues, or sound out words to come to a meaningful answer. Children love to play this game and it helps them think about meaning while reading.



JSPA NEWS...

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

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 Matt Connors, the winner of the Sunshine Fundraising basket raffle!

We have many events planned for this month. Our Spring fundraiser was sent out last week. The fundraiser packets are due on March 18, 2009. The merchandise ordered will be sent home the

week before our Spring Break in April. Board elections are coming up. Look for the nominations memo to be sent out during this month. Also, we will be having a Family Fun Night on March 27, 2009. Keep the date open for a night of fun!!!

Our next meeting is **Tuesday**, March 24, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the gym. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thea Kazarian, Gil Aviles, Rose Ravagnan, Janet Lewis, Julie Dorsett



