

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



The New Year is off to a great start here at Jefferson School. The January excitement that surrounded Inauguration Day inspired our students to write essays about patriotism and the promise of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream. In January, our NJASK Extended Day classes started preparing our students for the statewide assessment scheduled for the first two weeks in May. Hot sounds filled a cold night and a good time was had by all as the first Karaoke Night of the new year encouraged our students to sing like stars. 2009 started with such promise and a flurry of excitement.

Speaking of “flurries”... the shortest month of the year may be heading for a record amount of snowfall. Yes, February started with that special groundhog telling us to be ready for six more weeks of cold winter weather. Our custodial staff of Tom Beslanovitz and Kevin Leahy have been working overtime shoveling snow, scraping ice and throwing down salt to melt the ice so that our students can be safe coming and going to and from school. Our thanks go out to these gentlemen for their enduring commitment to our school.

For a short month, February has its fair share of activity. Now that the second trimester is well underway; Parent Conferences are scheduled for Thursday evening February, 5th.

Dental Hygiene will be the focus as a local dentist sponsors a special program on February 11th. Mrs. Bullen has scheduled a Patriotic Assembly for Friday, February 13th at 2:00pm. We will also celebrate Valentine's Day a day early on the 13th. The Parents' Association has sponsored a candy gram drive to usher in February's favorite holiday. During the week of February 16th, our school will be closed for a “Fuel Conservation Week”. Classes will resume on Monday, February 23rd. Our Partners In Education/Vision Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 24th after school and on February 25th, our Parents' Association will

hold its monthly meeting at 7:00pm. With a schedule like that, it's hard to believe that February is the shortest month of the year!

I would like to remind our families and friends about the importance of attending meetings that have been scheduled to discuss your child. Often, meetings are set up weeks in advance and a number of professionals are asked to attend these meetings with the intent of offering valuable insights into various interventions that can be implemented to help your child achieve success in school. Professional and common courtesy would dictate that, if you are unable to attend a meeting for whatever reason, you cancel the meeting with advance notice so that it can be rescheduled and professional time is not wasted. The cost of substitutes to cover classes for the educators attending the meetings is substantial. Wasting money in this time of economic crisis is unfathomable! Please remember to contact us well in advance if you must cancel a scheduled meeting.

A reminder to please check your child's daily homework on the homeworknow.com website. Our teachers update the website weekly to ensure that you are aware of the nightly homework assigned to our students.

Now that we are in the midst of the second trimester, I encourage all our families and friends to be aware that a positive outlook and attitude regarding school starts at home. Set the example by encouraging our students to “shoot for the stars” and feel confident that they can achieve great things in school. Knowing how hard our faculty encourages our students during the school day should inspire all our families to continue that positive encouragement at home. Please take the time to discuss the school day with your children to show them how much you care. I know that schedules can get crazy from time to time, but we must show a genuine interest in the education of our children in order for them to fulfill their dreams not only for today, but for tomorrow also.

Thank you for all your continued support. Stay warm and keep a hopeful eye on an early Spring!

Yours with Jefferson School pride.

Hugh E. Beattie - Principal

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.



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



DELAYED OPENING PROCEDURES:

NEW OPENING TIME: When the Superintendent opts for a Delayed Opening, he will indicate to all staff, the media, and the community that "all Bergenfield Public Schools will open at 10 A.M." That is to be regarded as "the time at which students are to report". ALL BEFORE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS WILL BE CANCELLED

THE COMMUNITY WILL BE NOTIFIED: By announcement on the same radio and TV stations which announce school closings for us (WINS 101,

WCBS 880, Fox TV Channel 5, WVNJ, News 12 NJ) and by single siren blast at 6:15 a.m., at 6:45 a.m.; and at 7:15 a.m. for a delayed opening.

HALF-DAY KINDERGARTEN: Kindergarten AM session will run 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and Kindergarten PM session will run 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M., not necessitating the disruption of days of Kindergarten attendance.

LUNCH SERVICE: Elementary lunch period will be 60 minutes, 12:00 – 1:00 P.M. Elementary lunch will be closed; all students will remain in the building. Students, who normally leave the building, should bring their lunch and plan to remain in.

DISMISSAL TIMES: Unless a heat/health emergency develops in an individual school, dismissal will be at regular times.

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.

FEBRUARY HEALTHY HAPPENINGS:

Attention 5th Grade Parents:

There are new requirements for vaccinations for students entering the 6th grade.



- 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 his/her annual physical within the coming months, please ask your pediatrician to administer these vaccines. **They will be required before your child enters Middle School in September.** It would be preferable if I could include the administration of these vaccines in his/her health records before they are sent to the Middle School in June.

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 often if a dental problem exists.
- Your child should brush his/her 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 him/her a straw to reduce the amount of sugar and acid that comes in direct contact with the teeth.

On February 11th our second graders will attend a presentation about dental health.

If any families do 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

Have a restful and hopefully warm February break!

Carolyn Niederman RN, APN

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



As we come to the half way mark of the school year, the kindergarteners are still making tremendous writing progress. Our monthly writing contests 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 created 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.

A JOYFUL JANUARY IN FIRST GRADE

We sure have kicked off 2009 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 how a very important man in history. Martin Luther King Jr. made such a difference for all people. We learned that without him things would be very different in our world today. We are so thankful for all that he did, and all that he helped people to learn. He taught us that everyone should learn to get along peacefully, and accept others for who they are. We got the chance to read about him and we even wrote about him. Everyday we try to remember the important things that he taught us.



We are lucky that we were all able to witness a great event in American History. We watched our new president, Barack Obama, being inaugurated on TV right in our classroom. We read about him, and his family in our class.

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. We are working on our reading comprehension and fluency. We read each and every day. Please support us by keeping up the reading at home. It is a fun thing for families to do together!

In math, we have been practicing addition and subtraction facts, as well as learning new concepts. We have been learning to tell the difference between numbers that are greater or less than. We also have used tens and ones cubes to start learning about place value too!

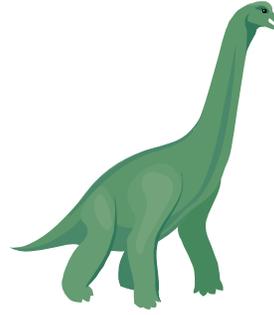
In January, we were lucky to have an author from New Jersey come to visit us. Jane Lovascio came and shared her stories with us, and talked to us about being an author. She told us that writing is important. Jane wrote about her dogs "Casey and Bella." 1-V and 1-G had a great time listening to her tell her stories.

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!

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM SECOND GRADE

Second graders started off the year on a positive note. We set goals for ourselves to achieve in 2009 and displayed them in the hall. We are doing our best to uphold these New Year's Resolutions.

Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs! Just ask our second grade experts anything you want to know about your favorite dinosaur. We have



investigated fossils, read books, and researched dinosaurs on the internet. We even got to see first hand how spectacular these dinosaurs were by going on our field trip to the Museum of Natural History. When we came back from the museum,

we were inspired to name a dinosaur after ourselves. We took the information we learned about these dinosaurs and wrote a report as if we were the dinosaur alive today. Stop by to see which second graders are harmless herbivores or fearful carnivores!

Later in the month, we celebrated one of the great heroes of our country's past, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We read all about his great achievements in difficult times. We were so moved by his courage that we wrote letters to him thanking him for making our world a better place to live.

Math has our brains working in overdrive!! We have learned many new concepts and games to help us remember our addition and subtraction facts. "Three Addends" and "Basketball Addition" are some of our favorite games. Wow! Second graders have had one busy month, and we are looking ahead to a fabulous February!

THIRD GRADERS JUMP INTO JANUARY

Happy New Year everyone! We hope everyone enjoyed the nice long vacation, but now it's time to get down to the business of learning again.

January has been a jam-packed month. The boys and girls reflected upon their accomplishments of 2008 then busily and thoughtfully made New Years resolutions. Some resolutions included: trying to make honor roll, master the multiplication facts, score more points in basketball, or read every night for at least fifteen minutes. We're confident at least some of these resolutions will be met.

"CRASH! BANG! KERPLUNK!"... Under the guidance of Mrs. Blasius, the children are developing their writing skills. For the past few weeks they have been working on developing fantastic **LEADS**- opening paragraphs that catch a reader's attention. Mrs. Blasius presented different types of leads such as "ask a question,"



“state facts,” “describe the setting or character” and “use action”. After writing various types of leads, the children will apply these techniques to their own writing. These are sure to grab the attention of the scorers of NJASK.

65.432 or Sixty-five and four hundred thirty-two thousandths- Are you skilled at reading decimals to the thousandths place value? Well, Jefferson School third graders are! Our unit of study this month has focused on place value-reading large numbers in the millions to small numbers in the thousandths. The children practiced reading and writing all sorts of numbers, and they used place value blocks to help them read and write decimals. After the unit on place value, we’re off to the study of geometry- Isosceles triangles vs. equilateral triangles. Do you know the difference?

To complete this memorable month, the boys and girls celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and witnessed the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama. After reading information about the life of Dr. King, the students created detailed bookmarks emphasizing important facts of his life. These beautiful keepsakes are presently on display in the third grade hallway. We know Dr. King would have been as proud as we were to observe President Obama take the oath of office of the President of the United States. Congratulations, Mr. President!

Well, that’s all the news for January. We know February will be fabulous because...

- Punxsutawney Phil will surely bring us an early spring!
- The Steelers will surely win the Super Bowl!
- Our Third Graders will surely continue to do their best work ever!!!!!!!!!!!!

NEWS FROM FOURTH GRADE



Welcome 2009! 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. 4th graders wrote their resolutions on footballs and displayed them outside our walls.

In Reading, we’ve begun our Unit 3 short stories. These stories deal with nature and have us thinking about the seasons, animals and how nature affects us. We’ve written our pen-pals from Montvale for the 3rd time. We completed Tales of a

Fourth Grade Nothing and worked on projects that developed the characters of the story and made some real life connections using our own lives.

In Math, we completed Unit 5. We played many of fun games this month which included Multiplication Wrestling, High-Number Toss, and Number Top-It. We reviewed and learned different algorithms for multiplication. Our favorite algorithm was the lattice method. Unit 5 also allowed us to explore large numbers. We practiced reading, writing, and comparing these numbers. Can you believe we worked with numbers in the trillions?

In Science, we took on the role of geologists. We studied the Earth and its features, such as mountains, plateaus, and plains. Did you know the earth is constantly changing? We also classified different properties of rocks and identified minerals as well as investigated the three different types of rocks; igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. We also learned that there is a rock cycle just as there is a water cycle and rocks are constantly changing from one type to another.

We celebrated Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday in a few ways. We wrote our own goals for 2009 that reflected our “dreams”. We acted out a play that documented Martin’s life as a child and reminded us of his great speech and all he stood for. The class worked so hard on the play we performed for several classes. We watched the inauguration of our new President. We even wrote him letters congratulating him and wishing him luck with his new job that will be mailed to his new address at the White House.

Hoping for a heart-filled February!
Ms. Sullivan and Mrs. Young

JANUARY NEWS FROM FIFTH GRADE

As we head into the second half of the year, the fifth grade students continue to meet new challenges as they busily prepare for their transition to middle school. In January, we began new units in both Math and Science. During the past month, the students explored various concepts involving graphs and data analysis. They also reviewed addition and subtraction of fractions. As we begin our next unit, we look forward to learning about exponents and negative numbers. Every student is doing a fantastic job utilizing



Study Island at home as part of their weekly homework.

In Science, we are continuing with our chemistry unit on mixtures and solutions. The students have completed experiments where they were required to separate solutions through the process of evaporation. We took a close look at the crystals that were left behind after the liquid evaporated. Each chemical could be identified by the pattern of the crystal.

In Reading, the students participated in a unit of study that included a play, two biographies, and two expository nonfiction pieces. In these pieces, the fifth graders enjoyed reading about different artists and inventors and the challenges and successes that they encountered during their lives. In Writing, the fifth graders have been experimenting with incorporating different story leads into their writing pieces. By doing so, the students are better able to “hook” their audience into becoming interested in reading their work. In Grammar, the students have been focusing upon identifying and using linking, action, and helping verbs correctly within sentences. As the year progresses, we are starting to focus upon preparing for the NJASK. At this time, all students are doing a terrific job of utilizing the Study Island program each week. Keep up the good work!

In Social Studies, we have finally reached the start of the Revolutionary War! After several taxes were put into place by the British and protested by the colonists, both the British and the colonists faced the reality that a war would take place. As the action of the war begins to pick up, the students find themselves eager to find out what will happen next!

TLC Update from Mrs. Blasius

My grade 1 simile writers are making me smile! We have finished our self-simile posters which are now brightening up our hallways. Presently we are writing similes about snow. The similes seem to flow out of the children’s pencils like lava out of a volcano. Our select favorites will soon join our posters on the walls. We may even make a book of them.

*There were eight smart second graders in TLC
Who learned about limericks with glee
They mastered the tricks
To write “Dogericks”
When you read them, you’ll surely agree!*



JSPA NEWS...

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

Congratulations also to Mrs.

What would you do if you had a magic broom that could fly and learn just about anything? Third grade TLC students speculated how they would use this broom as they wrote responses to Chris VanAllsburg’s The Widow’s Broom. Their stories will soon be sent home for all to enjoy in our class booklet. Currently we are trying to deduce who the stranger is in C.V.A’s book The Stranger. As usual this author does not want the reader to be sure about the ending. He always leaves us wondering and thinking. We are rereading and learning to draw conclusions from the facts given in the story.

Grade 4 TLC students have completed their ‘A’ to ‘Z’ Autobiographies. Make sure you save them, parents, as they are a priceless memento. Sticking with the “A” to “Z” format, we are now beginning a world geography unit. We are researching to answer seven geography questions for each letter. Soon each student will select a country to explore. Using research criteria, we will create individual posters to share our learning.

Grade Five students scoured their grandparents’ attics and basements, searching for “mystery objects”. Using critical thinking processes, the others asked questions trying to uncover the object’s function and name. The student supplied background knowledge for us after the questioning was done. Now we are beginning a “Color Unit”. We have been listing color associations and will read Hailstones and Halibut Bones, a beautiful collection of color poems which introduces the idea of feelings connected with each color. We will learn about the psychology of color, will study color idioms, and write our own color poems. Our vocabularies will expand as we stretch to find multiple names for each color.

No teacher could be happier than I as I work with this eager group of enthusiastic learners. Thanks for all the support you give to your students. Don’t forget you can check HomeworkNow.com for an update on our assignments.

Chin, the winner of our Valentine's Day basket raffle!

Karaoke Night was so much fun! We really have some stars among our students! Songs were sung, games were played, and a good time was had by all!

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!

Our next meeting is February 25, 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

